ROYAL PAYNE: Stewart-inspired and other lines for the links | Page 31



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Wednesday



Pakistanis tend to a wounded student Tuesday.

Mosque Siege: Key cleric is among dead in Pakistan raid | 7

Ginormous Edition: New dictionary adds 100 words | 4

Brit, Pop Star:L.A. is already going gaga over Beckham's U.S. arrival | 11



ENTERTAINMENT



Fly High On Potter:

> 'Order of the Phoenix' feels nice and familiar. Plus, 'Extras' is on DVD.

Weather » Sunny, Storms



FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 30

Storm Offers Respite From Heat

RAIN RUN: Jabaar Gray and Folsade Moonsammy dash across F Street NW seeking shelter from Tuesday afternoon's sudden downpour. As the region sweltered through the fourth day of a heat wave, the rain gave residents a small measure of relief — at least briefly. Temperatures were expected to reach into the 90s again on Wednesday, with storms expected to follow later in the day.

2 McCain Advisers Quit Staff

Top aides' resignations cast new doubts on faltering bid

WASHINGTON | John McCain jettisoned two top aides Tuesday, as the one-time Republican front-runner struggled to right a presidential bid in deep financial and political trouble.

Campaign manager Terry Nelson and

chief strategist John Weaver offered McCain their resignations, which the Arizona senator accepted with "regret and deep gratitude for their dedication, hard work and friendship."

Other senior aides fol-



McCain

lowed the two out the door, and the campaign announced that Rick Davis, who managed McCain's 2000 bid and is the current campaign's chief executive officer, will take over.

The second major staff shake-up in a week comes as McCain grapples with several problems, not the least of which are his dwindling bank account of some \$2 million and a slip in opinion polls. He also has staked out politically unpopular positions on two key issues — the Iraq war and immigration — that have hindered his candidacy.

Considered the GOP front-runner as the year began, McCain now faces significant hurdles to winning the Republican nomination that eluded him seven years ago. The senator is essentially restarting his campaign six months before the first voting begins.

"I think we're doing fine. I'm very happy with the campaign the way it is," McCain said at the Capitol. LIZ SIDOTI (AP)

THEFT | Swing Shift Nearly 4,800 fluorescent yellow golf balls are missing from a Kansas City, Kan., golf course after someone raided the driving range. Sunflower Hills Golf Course's Jeff Johnson said it would have taken someone hours Sunday night



to pick the balls up from the range. And he has no idea whether the theft was an expensive prank — with an estimated loss of \$2,700 — or whether the culprits intend to sell the balls, though about half have Dr. Pepper logos on them. (AP) EyeOpeners | Page 2

eyeOpeners

FASHION

To Have and to Hurl Violently

A Scottish bride attacked her new husband with her stiletto shoe, striking the groom in the head in an upstairs hotel room while their wedding reception went on below. Teresa Brown, 33, said she hit him after their wedding because he grabbed her. The distraught groom, Mark Allerton, 40, staggered to the front desk, clutching a bloody towel to his head. Police found Brown sitting on the hotel room bed, surrounded by broken glass. She spent the rest of her wedding weekend in a cell. (AP)

RUMINANTS

Plot Fails When Cows Stop to Graze

A group of women want equality in Pamplona's San Fermin-bull running festival, ending Saturday — they are demanding cow runs. "If the boys run ahead of the bulls, we [women] have to

run with the cows," said a petition on a Spanish student Web site. The initiative has received dozens of messages of support. "Cows, like bulls, have four legs, too, and a natural instinct to run," the group insists. "A cow run would fill afundamental void: What do we women do at 8 in the morning when the boys are risking their lives?" (AP)



ANGLES

Totally Square

Many little girls dream of marrying in a marketing gimmick for a giant Internet concern.

Jessica Stern, 29, and Kenneth Haim, 30, sealed the deal on New York's Fifth Avenue in the first-ever "Wedding in a Box" ceremony. (Sponsored by iVillage!) The promotional item in question is a clear box containing all the fixins for a wedding: dress, tux, cake, etc. (EXPRESS)

AVOIDANCE

Next Time, Just Say You're a Lawyer

A Cape Cod, Mass., man who claimed he was homophobic, racist and a habit-

ual liar to avoid jury duty earned an angry rebuke Monday from a judge, who referred the case to prosecutors for possible charges. "In 32 years of service in courtrooms, as a prosecutor, as a defense attorney and now as a

judge, I have, quite frankly, never confronted such a brazen situation of an individual attempting to avoid juror service," Judge Gary Nickerson told Daniel Ellis, who was then taken into custody. (AP)



Top Stops

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"The effort to try and make marijuana available for medical uses is really a way to legalize it. There's no reason for it."

-Presidential candidate Rudy Giuliani, at a campaign stop on Tuesday in New Hampshire

Nation

In Brief

WASHINGTON

South Dakota Will Be Home To Underground Laboratory

The National Science Foundation on Tuesday chose South Dakota's closed Homestake Gold Mine as the site for a new underground physics lab to study the history and makeup of the universe. The project, called the Deep Underground Science and Engineering Laboratory, will be located in the northern Black Hills and will be the largest and deepest facility of its kind in the world. (AP)



A section of Boston's Big Dig tunnel collapsed in July 2006, killing a woman.

WASHINGTON

Report Blames Weak Epoxy For Boston Tunnel Collapse

The fatal Big Dig tunnel collapse in Boston could have been avoided if authorities had considered that the epoxy securing tons of ceiling panels could slowly pull away, investigators concluded Tuesday. The National Transportation Safety Board approved a report saying the likely cause of the accident that killed a woman was an epoxy that could not sustain long-term loads. (AP)

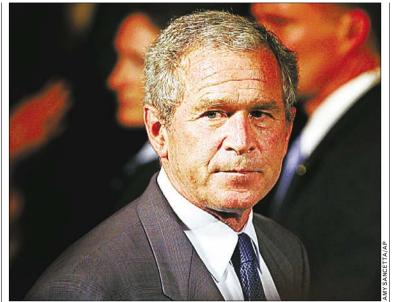
Bush Stands Firm on Iraq Strategy

President rules out tactical shift as unrest grows on Capitol Hill

WASHINGTON | The Bush administration ruled out any quick shift in military strategy in Iraq on Tuesday, despite growing bipartisan calls in the Senate for a troop withdrawal and sharp criticism of the Iraqi government.

As the Senate opened a new debate on the conflict, one of the president's staunchest supporters bluntly said the administration had pursued the wrong policy for years after toppling Saddam Hussein from power. "The strategy we had before was not the right strategy," said Sen. Christopher Bond, R-Mo. "We should have had a counterinsurgency strategy."

President Bush, facing new pressure to start bringing U.S. troops home from Iraq, said Tuesday he



 $President\,Bush\,defended\,his\,Iraq\,war\,strategy\,on\,Tuesday\,in\,Cleveland.\,Bush\,said\,he\,is\,waiting\,on\,a\,military\,assessment\,in\,September\,to\,judge\,progress\,in\,Iraq.$

will not consider it until hearing a fresh assessment from his top commander there this fall. "That's what the American people expect. They expect for military people to come back and tell us how the

military operations are going," Bush said. "And that's the way I'm going to play it as commander in chief."

Gen. David Petraeus is due in September to present a progress report to Congress about the effects of the recently completed troop buildup in Iraq. Frustration in Congress — among leaders of both parties — has led to calls for changes in strategy before then.

Back in Washington, the Senate wrestled with a defense spending bill, including efforts to withdraw troops and other ideas to wind down the war. With Republican support fading, and a new report expected to show little progress, the war continued to hang over Bush.

The closest he came to signaling a troop withdrawal was to say, "I believe we can be in a different position in a while." He described that as a troop level that would remain high enough to protect Iraq. BEN FELLER AND DAVID ESPO (AP)

EPA Probing Radiation Near Lejeune

Cancer-causing waste may have been buried outside military base

RALEIGH, N.C. | The Environmental Protection Agency is investigating whether cancer-causing radioactive material was buried in the 1980s near Camp Lejeune, the Marine Corps' primary base on the Atlan-



Thousands of Marines were exposed to harmful toxins at Camp Lejeune.

tic Ocean.

A recently recovered Navy document dated 1981 said the material included 160 pounds of soil and two animal carcasses laced with strontium-90, an isotope that causes cancer and leukemia.

"We are looking into this information to determine if we need to sample and where," said Dawn Harris-Young, an EPA spokeswoman. Over three decades, tens of thousands of Marines at Camp Lejeune and their families drank and bathed in water contaminated with as many as 40 times more toxins than permitted by safety standards. The wells had been contaminated with industrial solvents and were shut off in the mid-1980s.

At least 850 former residents of the base have filed claims against the military, seeking nearly \$4 billion, for exposure to the tainted water. ESTES THOMPSON (AP)



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Nation

750

The number of copies, in thousands, publisher Alfred A. Knopf is printing for the first run of Hillary Clinton's new book, "Giving," which will be released on Sept. 4.



Firefighters work to contain a blaze that gutted two homes in Sanford, Fla., after a twin-engine plane crashed on Tuesday.

Small-Plane Crash Kills 5

Aircraft goes down in Fla. neighborhood, starts 2 house fires

SANFORD, FLA. | A small plane carrying the husband of a NASCAR executive crashed into a neighborhood while trying to make an emergency landing Tuesday, killing five people and starting two house fires that seriously burned three other people, authorities said.

NASCAR confirmed that Dr. Bruce Kennedy, a Daytona Beach plastic surgeon and husband of International Speedway Corporation President Lesa France Kennedy, and NASCAR Aviation pilot Michael Klemm were among the dead.

Authorities said an adult and two children died in the homes that were quickly gutted by the fire after the airplane crashed in the suburban Orlando neighborhood around 8:40 a.m.

Matt Minnetto, an investigator with the Sanford Fire Department, said the plane itself was scattered in several pieces across the area. Among the three survivors was a boy about 10 years old who had burns over 80 to 90 percent of his body, Minnetto said.

"It was an extremely intense fire," Minnetto said

The twin-engine Cessna 310 had been traveling from Daytona Beach to Lakeland when the pilot declared smoke in the cockpit shortly before the crash, said Kathleen Bergen with the Federal Aviation Administration.

The pilot was trying to land at the Orlando Sanford International Airport when the plane went down, Bergen said. TRAVIS REED (AP)

'Ginormous' Gets Dictionary Listing

Sudoku, speed dating among terms added to Merriam-Webster

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. | It was a ginormous year for the wordsmiths at Merriam-Webster.

Along with embracing the adjective that combines "gigantic" and "enormous," the dictionary publishers also got into Bollywood, sudoku and speed dating.

But their interest in India's motion picture industry, number

SPEAK THE LANGUAGE

Merriam-Wester is adding about 100 words to its collegiate dictionary, including:

- → Crunk
- → DVR
- → Smackdowns
- Telenovelas
- → Microgreen

puzzles and trendy ways to meet people was all meant for a higher cause: updating the company's collegiate dictionary. "There will be linguistic conservatives who will turn their nose up at a word like 'ginormous," said John Morse, Merriam-Webster's president. "But it's become a part of our language."

Merriam-Webster editors have spotted the word in countless newspaper and magazine articles since 2000, which is essentially the criteria for making it into the collegiate dictionary.

But as editor Jim Lowe puts it: "Nobody has to use 'ginormous' if they don't want to." ADAM GORLICK (AP)



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FLAKING OUT: Thousands of Argentines cheered and threw snowballs in the streets of Buenos Aires on Monday as the capital's first major snowfall since 1918 spread a thin, white, snowy layer across the region. The snow followed a bitter cold snap in late May.

World

In Brief



A car bears damage from an overnight raid in the Sadr City area of Baghdad.

BAGHDAD

3 Killed, 18 Wounded In Green Zone Mortar Attack

Extremists unleashed a barrage of more than a dozen mortars or rockets into the Green Zone on Tuesday, killing at least three people — including an American — and wounding 18 in an area once considered the safest in the Iraqi capital. An Iraqi and a "third country national" were also killed in the attack, the U.S. Embassy said in a statement. The embassy said the 18 wounded included five Americans — two military members and three civilian contract employees. (AP)

TRIPOLI, LIBYA

Settlement Reached With Families of HIV-Infected Kids

A settlement has been reached in the case of five Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor who have been sentenced to death in Libya for allegedly infecting 400 children with the AIDS virus, the spokesman for the country's Gadhafi foundation said Tuesday. Foundation spokesman Salah Abdessalem did not say how the deal reached with families of the HIV-infected children would affect the case against the six foreign medical workers. (AP)

TEHRAN, IRAN

Judiciary Widens Probe Into Cases of Detained Americans

Fresh evidence has pushed Iran's judiciary to launch new investigations into the cases of two Iranian-Americans held on charges of endangering national security, a judiciary spokesman said Tuesday. Haleh Esfandiari and Ali Tajbakhsh continue to be detained and investigations have been broadened, said Ali Reza Jamshidi, the spokesman for Iran's judiciary. (AP)



An aerial view of Islamabad's Red Mosque and the Jamia Hafsa seminary during a lull in the Pakistani military push Tuesday.

Cleric Dies in Mosque Raid

Pakistani forces launch assault on standoff site, killing at least 50

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN | Pakistani commandos battled diehard Islamic militants holed up in a radical mosque Tuesday, killing an extremist cleric and dozens of his followers in a day long assault that ignited fiery protests and calls for revenge by Islamic extremists.

The army said more than 50 militants and eight soldiers died during fighting that began before dawn, and gunfire and explosions still could be heard late into the night. Officials said troops were trying to clear militants from res-

idential quarters next to one of the compound's two schools.

Among the dead was pro-Taliban cleric Abdul Rashid Ghazi, who had been the public face of a campaign by the Red Mosque leaders to use their students to impose puritanical Islamic rule in the capital.

Ghazi's body was found in the basement of the women's religious school in the compound after a fierce gunbattle, according to a senior Interior Ministry official, Brig. Javed Iqbal Cheema.

Several security officials said Ghazi had been hit by two bullets and gave no response when ordered to surrender. Soldiers then fired another volley and found him dead, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity

Elite troops attacked the mosque after a nearly weeklong siege failed to induce militants to surrender. Ghazi's older brother, Abdul Aziz, the mosque leader, was captured last week trying to slip out dressed in a woman's burqa as hundreds of people left the compound.

Officials declined to estimate how many people were still inside Tuesday night, but a local relief agency said the army asked for 400 white funeral shrouds.

The government had sought to avoid a battle, fearing heavy bloodshed would worsen public discontent with President Gen. Pervez Musharraf. He is opposed by Islamic hard-liners for allying with the U.S., and angered many Pakistanis by trying to oust the chief justice. Zarar Khan (AP)

Standoff: For a photo gallery of the raid on the Red Mosque and a 2 p.m. discussion with conflict analysis expert Craig Cohen, visit washingtonpost.com/world

China Executes Ex-Safety Official

Former top regulator convicted of taking cash for OK'ing drugs

BEIJING | China executed the former head of its food and drug watchdog for approving untested medicine for cash, a show of Beijing's seriousness about product safety.

During Zheng Xiaoyu's tenure as head of the State Food and Drug Administration from 1997 to 2006, the agency approved six medicines that turned out to be fake, and some drug-makers used falsified documents to apply for approvals, according to state media reports Tuesday. One antibiotic caused the deaths of at least 10 people.

In North America earlier this



Zheng Xiaoyu was sentenced to death for taking cash and gifts worth \$832,000.

year, pet food containing Chinese wheat gluten tainted with the chemical melamine was blamed for the deaths of dogs and cats. Since then, U.S. authorities have turned away or recalled toxic fish, juice contain-

ing unsafe color additives and toys decorated with lead paint.

Zheng's death sentence was unusually heavy even for China, believed to carry out more court-ordered executions than all other nations combined, and indicates the leadership's determination to confront the country's dire product safety record.

Zheng, 63, was convicted of taking cash and gifts worth \$832,000 when he was in charge of the SFDA.

He was sentenced to death on May 29 and his appeal for leniency was rejected on June 12. China's Supreme Court approved the sentence, saying Zheng "committee vile crimes and caused extreme harm to society." ANITA CHANG (AP)

Abbas: Al-Qaeda Infiltrating Gaza

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK | Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas accused Gaza's Hamas rulers of allowing al-Qaeda to infiltrate the coastal strip, and Hamas militants on Tuesday hotly denied the allegation.

In an interview Monday with Italy's RAI TV, Abbas charged that "thanks to the support of Hamas, al-Qaeda is entering Gaza." Abbas offered no evidence to back up his allegations.

Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri accused Abbas of trying to whip up sentiment against Hamas, which abruptly vanquished the president's forces in Gaza last month and unseated his Fatah political party in 2006 parliamentary elections. (AP)

World



SNACK ATTACK: A resort town in Brazil hopes a steel-and-plastic net will stop piranhas from taking a bite out of bathers — and its tourism industry. Authorities in Palmas, Brazil, say 180 cases of bathers being bitten by piranhas have been reported so far this year at La Prata beach.

Bombing at Afghan Market Kills 19

Suicide blast targeting NATO inflicts heavy toll on nearby students

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN | A suicide bomber targeted a NATO patrol in a crowded marketplace filled with schoolchildren Tuesday, killing 19 people, including 13 elementary school students — an attack the U.N. and NATO quickly criticized for harming so many civilians.

The bombing — one of the deadliest of the year — injured at least 35 Afghans and eight Dutch soldiers patrolling on foot, whom the bomber apparently had targeted.

Both the United Nations and NATO criticized the Taliban, which claimed responsibility for the attack, over the civilian deaths — an issue the U.S. and NATO have taken heat for



IN HARM'S WAY: NATO medics provide medical treatment for an Afghan boy wounded in a suicide attack in the southern Afghan province of Uruzgan Tuesday.

this year because dozens, if not hundreds, of innocent Afghans have been killed by Western military action.

The governor of northeast Kunar province, Shelzai Dedar, meanwhile, said a government investigation found NATO military action in Kunar last week killed 27 civilians along with 37 militants. NATO has said it had no evidence of civilian casualties from the battle.

Details about Tuesday's bombing varied. The deputy district police chief, Jahih Kawi Khan, said 19 were killed and 35 wounded, while the Interior Ministry said 17 died, and the provincial health department chief said 51 were wounded.

One detail all agreed on was the severe toll inflicted on schoolchildren. The provincial health chief, Dr. Luma Khan, said most of the wounded were students. NOOR KHAN (AP)

Al-Qaeda's No. 2 Warns U.K. Over Rushdie Honor

EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND | Al-Qaeda's deputy leader threatened a jittery Britain on Tuesday with more attacks, accusing London of defying the Islamic world by honoring novelist Salman Rushdie.

The tape of a 20-minute speech by al-Qaeda second-in-command Ayman al-Zawahri surfaced on the Internet amid heightened concern about terrorism in Britain, following last month's attack in Glasgow and the discovery of two car bombs that failed to go off in London.

In the tape, al-Zawahri said the knighthood announced last month defied the Islamic world and that a "very precise response" was being prepared. The authenticity of the tape could not be independently confirmed. (AP)

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CHEAP OWNERS: A Virginia law that took effect July 1 requires veterinarians to send a copy of every dog's new rabies vaccination certificate to the treasurer's office, which can then bill the owner for a license. The new law has drawn criticism from the Virginia Hunting Dogs Association.

Loca

Md. Budget Cuts Criticized

State workers union claims cuts threaten valuable services

ANNAPOLIS, MD. | Budget cuts announced by Gov. Martin O'Malley this week will either stretch Maryland's services or leave too much fat in government.

It depends on who you ask.

Moments after O'Malley announced details of his cuts - more than \$128 million to be approved Wednesday by the Board of Public Works - critics derided the plan.

A state workers union said the cuts threaten services to the most vulnerable Marylanders, from those

MD. STATE BUDGET CUTS Gov. Martin O'Malley has proposed \$280 million in reductions. Among the highlights:

- →\$47M: From the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which includes Medicaid and aid to nursing homes.
- →\$12M: From the University System of Maryland.
- → \$11M: From the Department of Public Safety and Corrections. Includes \$8 million in savings from closing the state prison in Jessun.
- →\$10.5M: From the Department of Education, including eliminating 21 vacant positions.

in foster care to those treated by emergency responders.

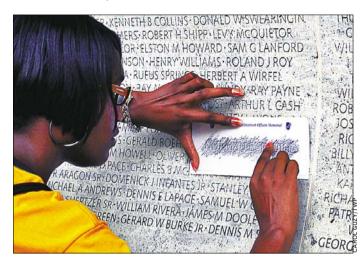
Meanwhile, Republicans said the cuts represent less than 1 percent of the current fiscal year budget and won't do enough to plug a projected deficit that falls somewhere between \$1.4 billion and \$1.5 billion.

O'Malley said the cuts represent a first step in fixing the fiscal problem, which he said was caused by an income tax cut and an education funding expansion approved by lawmakers several years ago.

"We need to restrain spending," O'Mallev said.

The cuts include \$128 million in current spending, plus eliminating \$60 million left unspent from last year. (AP)

WASHINGTON | CHILDREN PAY RESPECTS TO PARENTS



PRESERVING MEMORIES: Alexandria Spruiel etched her father's name Tuesday while visiting the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial with fellow recipients of the Vantagepoint Public Employee Memorial Scholarship, for relatives of fallen police officers. Her father was shot by a repeat offender while on an undercover assignment in Detroit in 1993.

Va. Bans Poultry Sale After Bird Flu Finding

State Agriculture Department says humans not at risk

ROANOKE, VA. | Virginia banned all live poultry sales and shows for the rest of July following the discovery of avian flu antibodies in a flock of 54,000 turkeys on a Shenandoah County farm.

State veterinarian Richard Wilkes issued an order Monday canceling all sales and exhibitions, Elaine Lidholm, a spokeswoman for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, said Tuesday. The ban remains in effect until July 30.

The avian influenza strain poses

The Lotteries

Tuesday, July 10

Mid-day Lucky Numbers

DISTRICT

Mid-day DC 4

no danger to humans, Lidholm said. "The danger is really to the industry," she said.

Wilkes also issued a ban in 17 counties on the transfer and application of poultry litter, a combination of floor shavings and manure that is either processed into fertilizer or spread directly on fields.

The antibodies discovered in the turkey flock match those in a mild strain of avian influenza, but a U.S. Department of Agriculture laboratory is conducting tests to determine whether the antibodies are for low or the more severe high pathogenicity. Nearly 5 million birds were killed in 2002 when Virginia had a full-fledged avian flu outbreak. (AP)

Maryland Child Molester Arrested

HAGERSTOWN, MD. | Federal authorities have arrested an ordained rabbi from Hagerstown, convicted in Maryland and New York for sexually abusing children, after he was deported from India for allegedly violating his parole.

Alan Horowitz, 60, was arrested at

an airport in Newark, N.J., at about 4 a.m. Sunday, the U.S. Marshals Service reported. The former Hagerstown, Md., child psychiatrist was convicted in 1983 of sexually assaulting two brothers, ages 12 and 8. (AP)









4-1-7

8-9-1

8-3-6-0

4-1-3-8

4-11-17-22-30





NIMH is conducting a study to look at how a currently FDAapproved drug, Scopolamine, which is used for motion sickness, can help with depression.

This is a 12-visit outpatient study conducted at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD. The drug is given through a patch placed on the skin.

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Evening Cash 5 (Mon.) 10-18-21-26-32 4-2-9-1 All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Mid-day Pick 3

Mid-day Pick 4

Mid-day Cash 5

1-5-6

Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)

Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)

The National Institute of Mental Health



MARYLAND Mid-day Pick 3 3-9-0 Mid-day Pick 4



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Money

Patients Sizing Up Hospital Care

New resources ramp up tools for comparing provider performance

Amid a broad push to bring more accountability to the U.S. health care system, consumers have access to a growing range of data on hospital quality.

Just a few years ago, only a handful of resources offered such data — some of it too broad to apply to individual hospitals. But now, the federal government, state agencies and a number of private entities are stepping up their push for greater "transparency" of hospital practices. They are mining Medicare data and state records and surveying hospitals to come up with user-friendly databases to help consumers comparison-shop for care.

To be sure, many communities still have just one or two hospitals to pick from — and in an emergency, choosiness may not be an option. But hospital systems are expanding, and high-profile institutions are increasingly competing for patients across the country.

Such public comparisons sometimes make hospitals and doctors uneasy, but disclosure

SHOPPING AROUND

Among the benchmarks to check when comparing hospitals:

→ Best practices data: A number of resources, including Medicare, publish statistics on how well hospitals adhere to treatment guidelines. One of the best-known sources for hospital

data may be Hospital Compare

(www.hospitalcompare.hhs.gov).

- → Outcomes data: A growing range of public and private entities disclose information on how well patients actually fare. A private company, Health Grades Inc. (www.healthgrades.com), provides doctor and hospital data on a wide range of outcomes.
- → Reputation: Word of mouth can help fill in the gaps that the numbers don't address. (ws.J)

can also inspire change, says Marc Volavka, executive director of the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council, which analyzes data on hospitals in that state. "If, in the light of day, problems are shown," he says, "that spurs improvement more than anything else you can imagine." THEO FRANCIS (THE WALL STREET JOURNAL)

NASDAQ Stock Market

In Brief

NEW YOR

Stocks Drop as Retailers Offer Weak Profit Forecasts

Stocks plunged Tuesday as investors, nervous about upcoming earnings reports, cringed at troubling forecasts from retailers Home Depot and Sears and at soaring oil prices. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 100 points. The market seemed to be following the pattern of previous earnings seasons, turning lower as second-quarter reports had a rocky start. Home Depot Inc., Sears Holdings Corp. and home builder D.R. Horton Inc. offered dreary outlooks that suggested the sluggish housing market may dampen consumer spending. (AP)

NEW VODE

S&P May Cut Credit Rating Of Subprime-Backed Bonds

Standard & Poor's is considering cutting the credit rating of more than \$12 billion in bonds backed by risky home loans as more borrowers miss payments, the ratings agency said Tuesday. These bonds — sold by some of Wall Street's biggest banks — represent a principal source of financing for the housing market. Standard & Poor's Ratings Service, the credit-rating division of McGraw-Hill Cos., said it may slash its rating on 612 classes of mortgage-backed bonds. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

			•	THE STATE OF THE S					
Gainers				Gainers					
STOCK	LAST	DAILY Change	DAILY Percent Change	STOCK	LAST	DAILY Change	DAILY Percent Chang		
GraphPk	5.76	+.87	+17.8	Fonar rs	7.41	+3.20	+76.1		
GreenbCos	33.15	+4.52	+15.8	OceanB	2.55	+.82	+47.4		
AllisChE	26.17	+1.52	+6.2	EchelonC	20.55	+4.98	+32.0		
NatcoG	50.58	+2.68	+5.6	BigBand n	14.75	+1.63	+12.4		
FrankCov	8.62	+.42	+5.1	Iomai	1.77	06	-3.3		
Losers				Losers					
Valhi s	17.59	-3.08	-14.9	Depomed	2.00	-2.93	-59.4		
TOUSA	3.25	37	-10.2	Unica	11.58	-4.02	-25.8		
NovaStar	7.92	75	-8.7	PhysnsF n	11.88	-4.02	-25.3		
ACA Cap n	9.57	88	-8.4	Local.com	8.87	-2.28	-20.4		
Americdt	24.42	-2.12	-8.0	Pantry	39.82	-6.85	-14.7		

Rates Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK		TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
Prime Rate	8.25	8.25	British Pound	.4934	.4963	.5433
Fed Funds close	5.20	5.20	Canadian Dollar	1.0512	1.0484	1.1252
3-month disc	4.81	4.82	European Euro	.7284	.7341	.7854
2-year	4.85	4.88	Japanese Yen	122.03	123.33	114.10
10-year	5.03	5.04	Mexican Peso	10.8142	10.7582	10.9875
30-vear	5.13	5.14	Taiwanese Dollar	32.86	32.77	32.31

DOW NASDAQ S&P 500 -148.27 -30.86 -21.73 -1.09 -1.16 -1.42 13501.70 2639.16 1510.12

Media Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY Change	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
CBS B	34.14	15	+9.5
ClearChan	37.79	40	+6.3
Comcast s	27.60	69	-2.2
Comc sp s	27.47	67	-1.6
DirecTV	24.79	+.40	6
Disney	33.89	57	+1.1
EchoStar	43.37	69	+14.0
GpTelevisa	27.24	66	+.9
McGrwH	64.24	-2.98	-5.6
NewsCpA	21.27	47	-1.0
NewsCpB	23.05	48	+3.5
Thomson	42.24	16	+1.9
TW Cable n	39.89	11	+2.5
TimeWarn	20.51	48	-5.8
ViacomB	/1 58	- 78	+1 3

The number of points the United States scored in a shutout against South Korea in the American football World Cup. The team scored 28 points in the first quarter of its first game on the way to a record for the tournament, which has been played twice before.

Sports



Sidney Crosby led the NHL with 120 points (36 goals, 84 assists) last year.

Crosby Inks 5-Year Contract

20-year-old Penguins star center signs a deal worth \$43.5 million

HOCKEY | Sidney Crosby has a new contract before his 20th birthday and his eye on the Stanley Cup for the Pittsburgh Penguins.

The NHL MVP and scoring champion signed a five-year extension through the 2012-13 season worth \$43.5 million. The deal leaves room for the team to re-sign other young stars, such as Evgeni Malkin and Jordan Staal, in the coming seasons.

"It feels great, especially with the group of guys we have, to know I'm going to be able to grow with these guys and spend a while with them," Crosby said. "To have that sense of security, it definitely feels good."

The three-year contract Crosby signed as a rookie lasts through the coming season, and the five-year extension keeps him under contract for the next six seasons. Crosby may negotiate a new deal shortly before he turns 26, when he should be in his prime, agent Pat Brisson said.

"The main goal here was that we had to establish that Sidney is all about winning," Brisson said. "He wanted to obviously help general manager Ray Shero put the right numbers together to help the team."

JOE MANDAK (AP)

A-Rod's Record-Breaking Talent

Bonds says he expects the All-Star shortstop to be home run king

BASEBALL | Alex Rodriguez laughed.

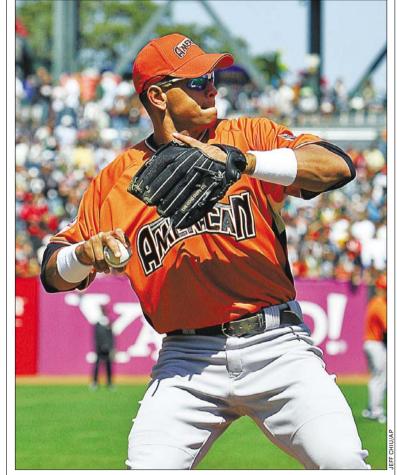
Barry Bonds had just suggested that if he does indeed break Hank Aaron's home run record, A-Rod will top Bonds' figure before too long.

"I kind of feel shy talking about it because I hit 14 or 15 home runs in April, and they said I was going to hit 140," Rodriguez said Monday. "I think it's kind of ridiculous, but I take that as a compliment."

Bonds, who turns 43 on July 24, entered the All-Star break with 751 homers, four shy of Hank Aaron's record. Rodriguez, who turns 32 on July 27, leads the majors with 30 home runs this season, raising his career total to 494.

Asked whether A-Rod would make his reign short, Bonds quickly replied: "Oh, definitely."

"His talent is unbelievable. I don't think people really appreciate his talent. His eye-hand coordination, his actual strength, his actual recognition of the ball, those



Alex Rodriguez takes infield practice before Monday's home run derby. The Yankees shortstop has already hit 30 home runs this season and 494 in his career.

are things you can't teach," Bonds said. "It's great because I know what he knows, and I can see what he sees. I'm just older and can't do it as often. Willie [Mays] told me 'I see what you see, I just can't do it anymore."

Rodriguez repeatedly said he will celebrate when Bonds tops Aaron's mark.

"I would get [off] my couch to go pay a ticket and go watch him play," Rodriguez said.

While Bonds is being celebrated with the All-Star game in his home park this year, next year's All-Star game will be at Yankee Stadium. But will A-Rod still be a Yankee?

Rodriguez can opt out of the final three seasons of his record \$252 million, 10-year contract and become a free agent after the World Series. He refuses to discuss his intentions but looks forward to being at Yankee Stadium that night.

"It's going to be sentimental for a lot of people," he said. "Hopefully, I'm there." RONALD BLUM (AP)

Late game: The All-Star Game actually means something now. Find out who it helped | Today's Post, Sports

Hype Arrives From Across the Pond

Beckham brings fame, endorsements and money to the U.S.

SOCCER | The English have been gaga over David Beckham for years, for reasons not yet fully understood in America.

The short version is Beckham, along with being the master of many hairstyles, has a special talent for kicking a stationary soccer ball just where he wants it.

That's big stuff in England. Ordinarily, though, it might not cause much of a buzz among the beautiful people of Tinseltown.

He's also got a beaut of a contract and endorsements that will pay him untold millions to play for the Los Angeles Galaxy.

Beckham begins earning that



Victoria and David Beckham are mobbed at a Formula One race last weekend.

contract on Friday when he'll be introduced at the Galaxy's home field, and the perfect media storm begins to brew. A few days later, his wife's trip to America will get more prime-time U.S. television coverage than the Beatles did when they first came over.

But that's merely the begin-

On July 21, ESPN will wave the pom-poms for three hours cheering Beckham's arrival in a show that will include everything except a concert by the Spice Girls. Adidas will run constant commercials featuring Beckham and NFL star Reggie Bush, and Motorola will pay him millions to sell phones.

Americans, whose willingness to fall for hype has never been overestimated, will undoubtedly be entranced by it all.

And then Beckham will actually play a game. TIM DAHLBERG (AP) $\,$

Charge Against Ravens' McNair Is Dropped

RAVENS | The drunken-driving charge against Ravens quarter-back Steve McNair was dropped Tuesday because a related DUI charge against his brother-in-law was reduced to reckless driving.

"It's good. I'm glad it's over," McNair said as he left the court room.

When asked whether he would change how he handles himself when he goes out at night, McNair did not answer.

McNair was a passenger when Nashville police stopped his pickup truck May 9 for speeding. The former Tennessee Titan was charged because police said McNair allowed his vehicle to be driven by someone who was inebriated. Teresa M. Walker (AP)

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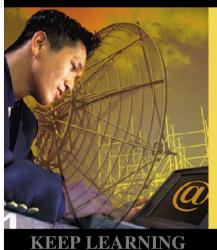




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Sports

SAILING | SETS OF SAILS



IN A TACK MODE: Competitors in the laser class start the medal race at the 2007 Sailing World Championships in Cascais, outside of Lisbon, Portugal, on Tuesday. Australia's Tom Slingsby won with 43 points.

Depleted United Begins Open Cup

Team will bring mostly role players, reserves to game vs. Harrisburg

UNITED | Competing for as many as six major trophies this season and coming off two difficult road games in sweltering conditions, D.C. United will open its U.S. Open Cup campaign Wednesday night in Pennsyl-

vania with a squad composed mostly of role players and reserves, while mainstays such as Christian Gomez, Jaime Moreno, Ben Olsen and Luciano Emilio



Gomez

will rest ahead of Saturday's home game against FC Dallas.

The Open Cup represents the country's one piece of authentic soccer tradition. Established in 1914, the single-elimination tournament is open to all pro and amateur teams and routinely offers small clubs the opportunity to test themselves against major league opposition. Although an MLS club has failed to win the title

just once since the league's establishment in 1996, early round upsets do happen. Twice United has lost to second division teams, and on six occasions a club at the third or fourth level of American soccer has dispatched an MLS team.

In Wednesday night's round of 16, United will face a third-tier club, the Harrisburg City Islanders. D.C. hasn't claimed the trophy since 1996, but it appears confident that a team featuring regulars Troy Perkins, Brian Carroll, Josh Gros and Bobby Boswell will be good enough to advance.

United (7-5-2 in MLS) weathered the recent Copa America callups of Moreno, Olsen and Boswell decently and benefited from a couple of breakthrough performances from the likes of forward Nicholas Addlery and defender Devon McTavish, both of whom should start Wednesday night.

"We always work hard to make sure we've got a staff that works with everybody to make sure that when their chance comes, they're ready to go," coach Tom Soehn said of his bench. "We have a deep team."

RECIPE FOR DISASTER: Awash in food safety problems, China says athletes, coaches, officials and others at the 2008 Beijing Summer Games can be assured of secure meals. Organizers are also taking measures to ensure food is free of substances that could trigger a positive result in tests for banned drugs.



Sports



Fabian Cancellara throws his hands in the air after winning the third stage in the Tour de France. Cancellara, who leads the race, said the feeling was indescribable.

The Yellow Jersey Wins Long Stage

Race leader sprints to the finish to win 2nd stage of the Tour

CYCLING | Switzerland's Fabian Cancellara extended his overall lead in the Tour de France, winning the third and longest stage in a sprint finish Tuesday as cycling's showpiece event entered its home

The Swiss rider, who also won Saturday's prologue, finished the 147-mile ride from Waregem, Belgium, to Compiegne, northeast of Paris, in 6 hours, 36 minutes, 15 seconds.

"I have no words after winning something like that," said Cancellara, who overtook four riders in the final stretch.

Erik Zabel of Germany was second and Danilo Napolitano of Italy was third.

Cancellara, who has held the yel-

low jersey for all four days, extended his overall lead by 10 seconds by gaining bonus points for the victory. He leads Andreas Kloeden of Germany by 33 seconds. David Millar of Britain is third, 41 seconds behind.

All 187 riders who began the stage finished, carefully negotiating sharp turns and cobblestone patches near the end.

"It was a really long day, but because of the wind we couldn't go faster," said Cancellara, who was caught in a group crash Monday and slightly injured his left hand. "We are not machines."

On Saturday, the race heads into the Alps for three days, and the climbers are expected to begin moving closer to the overall lead. Other pivotal stages in the three-week race are time trials in the 13th stage and the next-to-last stage before the July 29 finish on the Champs-Elysees in Paris. Jamey Keaten (AP)

Amputee Chases Olympic Dreams

Oscar Pistorius gets a shot at some top-level racers this weekend

RUNNING | Oscar Pistorius believes he has the talent to compete against the best runners in the world.

Pistorius, a double-amputee who races on carbon fiber blades attached below his knees, will get his chance this weekend when he runs in a world-class able-bodied race for the first time.

The 20-year-old South African will run the 400 meters at the Norwich Union Grand Prix on Sunday in a field that includes Olympic champion Jeremy Wariner.

Also entered are former Olympic relay gold medalist Darold Williamson of the United States, Commonwealth Games 400-meter champion John Steffensen of Australia and



Oscar Pistorius runs during practice at Brunel University in London on Tuesday.

former 400-meter Olympic hurdles champion Angelo Taylor.

"I've been chucked in the deep

end with the best guys in the world," Pistorius said Tuesday.

Pistorius was born without fibulas — the long, thin outer bone between the knee and ankle - and was 11 months old when his legs were amputated below the knee.

He began running four years ago to treat a rugby injury, and nine months later won the 200 meters at the Paralympic Games. He has set world records in the 100, 200 and 400 meters in Paralympic events, but now wants a new challenge.

He was given permission to race in able-bodied races by the International Association of Athletics Federations but still faces a barrier to take the step up to the Olympic level amid claims the curved blades he runs on create an unfair advantage.

"My goal is just to make the qualification standard for the Olympics." Pistorius said. KRYSTYNA RUDZKI (AP)



TODAY'S TV LINEUP

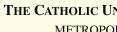
MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL (7:30 P.M. ON ESPN2) What's more exciting than any old minor league game? A meaningless minor league All-Star Game, perhaps. CYCLING (8:30 A.M. ON VERSUS) At some point, all the flat stages of the Tour de France begin to run together. This is that point, as the peloton moves from Villers-Cotterets to Joiany.

BOXING (II P.M. ON ESPN2) With nothing else to watch the day after the baseball All-Star Game, turn to the bout between junior middleweights Joel Julio (31-1-0) and Cornelius Bundrage (26-2-0).

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ALOHA AGAIN: Seventeen years after strict restrictions on human activities were enacted in Hanauma Bay, Hawaii, the reefs are regenerating along the sides and more than 200 varieties of marine animals can be seen in the clear ocean waters.

Travel

Kermit's Connection

A small Mississippi city celebrates Jim Henson's creations

Road signs of a flipper-waving Kermit the Frog attract thousands of visitors annually through the flatlands of the Mississippi Delta to the hometown of the famous amphibian and his equally renowned creator, Jim Henson.

The city of Leland (population 5,500) was where Henson lived from 1936 to 1948. His childhood home was torn down years before he became famous. But a permanent exhibit about Kermit called "Birthplace of the Frog: An Exhibit of Jim Henson's Delta Boyhood" was created here after Henson's death in 1990. The exhibit was a gift to Leland from the Jim Henson Co.

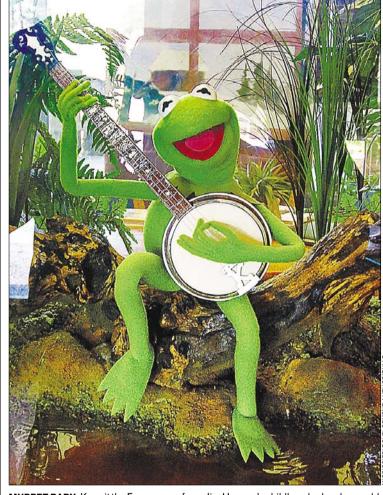
Kermit, the original Muppet, sprang from Henson's childhood and memories of playing along nearby Deer Creek with childhood friend Theodore Kermit Scott, who is believed to be the inspiration for the frog's name.

"My wife says my smile looks just like the frog," said Scott, 70, a retired philosophy professor who lives in Monroe, Va.

Scott said as children he and Henson used to play at Deer Creek and catch frogs.

The Kermit exhibit, in a threeroom building along the banks of Deer Creek, features childhood photos of Henson and an actual Kermit puppet, with his banjo, sitting in a swamp-like setting.

"Everyone seems to know the



MUPPET BABY: Kermit the Frog sprang from Jim Henson's childhood, when he would catch frogs at Deer Creek in Mississippi with his friend Theodore Kermit Scott.

work of Jim Henson, and it just appeals to them," said Ashley Zepponi, the exhibit's director. "Most people are charmed by it."

Visitors from Germany, France, Italy and other parts of the world are routinely among the 10,000 people who find their way here each year, Zepponi said.

Leland lies about eight miles

east of the Mississippi River and Greenville, where Henson was born, and it's only a short mile and a half from U.S. 61, Mississippi's "Blues Highway."

The main room features the "Swamp Kermit" scene from the original "Muppet Movie," a gift from the Jim Henson Foundation, enclosed in a glass case, and a viewing area showcasing episodes of "The Muppet Show" and other Henson works.

Recent additions to the exhibit are several puppets from Henson's "The Song of the Cloud Forest," a segment from one of his TV shows, about the importance of preserving South American rain forests and habitats. The brightly colored frogs and alligators are on loan from the Jim Henson Foundation.

Visitors can pause for a quick

My wife says my smile looks just like the frog."

THEODORE KERMIT SCOTT

photo op with an oversized stuffed Kermit, propped in front of a rainbow scene, and then wander into a Muppet memorabilia room, featuring hundreds of donated items.

Items on display include McDonald's Happy Meal toys, plush Kermit and Miss Piggy dolls, and vintage Muppet lunch boxes. There is also a special case devoted to "Muppet Babies" and "Sesame Street."

"It's interesting to know that I am right in the area of the show I grew up watching," said Mashondia Redmon, 34, on a recent visit.

"It shows them that people from Greenville can come and do great things," added teacher Angela Champion. KATHY HANRAHAN (AP)

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440 Ine Salali and Spice trip begins with a one-night stay at the Serena Mountain Lodge built on the side of Mount Kenya. Safari gameviewing drives are in small vans with pop-up roof windows that carry an average of six passengers, each with a window seat. They're outfitted with high frequency two-way radios and driven by English-speaking locals. Tours are limited to two safari vehicles, or 12 passengers, and groups often wind up being even smaller. WHEN: Sunday departures, Sept. 16-Oct. 31. DETAILS: Hotel taxes, national park fees and 18 meals — all meals while on safari and breakfast daily while in Zanzibar — are included Additional taxes and fuel surcharges total \$295 per person. U.S. citizens are required to obtain visas for both Kenya

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ROAD TEST | There are many things we do not know. We don't know whether there will ever be peace in the Middle East. No one can say whether physicists will find the elusive Higgs boson. We can't be entirely sure what the deal is with John Travolta.

But we can say a priori that commemorative pace cars are the dorkiest vehicles ever made.

Of all the accomplishments of the Mercedes-Benz CLK 63 AMG Black Series — if you consider felony murder of tires an accomplishment — the greatest is this: It is the world's first and only cool pace car for the street. Though, technically, it's a "safety car": Except for the lettering and flashing lights, this car is virtually identical to the Mercedessupplied vehicles used in Formula One to pace the field during fullcourse cautions. So, naturally, this car has Rennsport out the wazoo.

Spin up the rpm, and the gearbox cracks off shifts with back-shoving authority that Porsche's Tiptronic might recognize. In manual mode, the gearbox will not automatically upshift, so you can hold the car

NUTS & BOLTS

→ THE 2008 MERCEDES CLK 63

\$135,000

Powertrain: 6,2-liter DOHC V8 with variable-valve timing; seven-speed automatic transmission with manual shift mode; rear-wheel drive with limited slip differential | Wheelbase: 106.9 inches | Measurements: 183.3 inches long, 3,948 pounds | Horsepower: 500 at 6,800 rpm | Torque: 465 at 5,290 | 0-60 mph: 4.1 seconds

near redline and balance it with the throttle in a corner. Some might wish for a proper manual transmission, but I can't see how that makes the car better.

Is it worth it? Well, the performance is astounding. The car has ridiculous amounts of lateral grip, exquisite transitional manners, fantastic braking and steering as lively and communicative as anything with a Mercedes star.

For F1 fanatics, this is absolutely as close as they are going to get to lapping Monza or Hockenheim. But safety car? I don't think so. DAN NEIL (THE LOS ANGELES TIMES)



DEBBIE DOES DIVA: Blondie is lending its post-punk sound to a musical based on "Desperately Seeking Susan," the '80s flick starring Madonna. Opening in London on Oct. 12, the show will include original tunes by frontwoman Debbie Harry.

Entertainment



SUMMER OF HARRY: "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" hits theaters Wednesday, followed by the last book on July 21.

Unfailing Order

'Harry Potter' No. 5 is reminiscent of the others, but still works

FILM | Harry Potter seems to be living the same school year over and over. And it's starting to wear thin.

The fifth adventure for the teen wizard, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," is another visual

marvel, yet it suffers from a problem similar to other sequels this summer: We've seen it all before.

Or at least, we've seen most of it. Sure, there are new characters introduced, new perils, new responsibilities for Harry and his pals and new revelations about the kid's early life and connection to the dark Lord Voldemort.

And Harry even has his first kiss.

Those fresh details aside, though, and despite a new director and screenwriter, "Order of the Phoenix" sticks safely and at times monotonously to the "Potter" formula: Show a bit of Harry's drab summer among his heartless Muggle relations, branch off into a magical interlude, then land him back at Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft, where the same old issues resurface — classmate

rivalry, teacher trouble and a slow build toward another showdown with Voldemort.

Granted, this is the formula of J.K. Rowling's books, and with fans counting the days until the arrival of the seventh and final novel July 21, the recipe has served the series well.

A good deal of the charm of the earlier movies results from the baubles the filmmakers have kept in from the books: odd little interactions with Hogwarts' resident ghosts and living portraits, some sports action on the quidditch field, quirky classroom happenings — stuff that doesn't really have much to do with the main story.

In casting aside most of those trappings, director David Yates and screenwriter Michael Goldenberg deliver the shortest "Potter" movie yet, though "Order of the Phoenix" is the longest novel at 800-plus pages.

The movie gains in momentum but loses a lot of the fun and wonder of previous installments. Granted, the stories grow gloomier as Harry's ultimate challenge approaches in book seven, but he's faced doom and death before and still managed to have a good time.

Much of the movie is a setup for things to come and an explanation of things that came before — personal histories, disclosures and prophecies, hints of an unholy bond between Harry and Voldemort.

Familiarity is not quite breeding contempt for Harry and his friends and enemies. But it's starting to breed indifference.

DAVID GERMAIN (AP)



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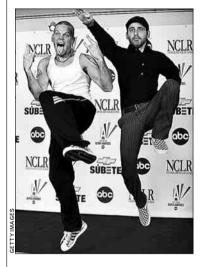
Numb vs. Encore



Marc Freedman explores a significant trend of the new century in his book, "Encore." After having full careers,

many Americans are passing on golf and trying something new professionally. Discuss with the author tonight.

→ Politics and Prose, 5015 Connecticut
Ave. NW; 7 p.m., free; 202-364-1919.
(Van Ness)



CALLE 13

Gasolina, With a Spark

Despite the youth of the genre, reggaetone already has stars: Calle 13. See the controversial duo, made up of Residente and Visitante, perform at the 9:30 Club.

→ 9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; 7:30 p.m.,
\$35; 202-265-0930. (U St.-Cardozo)

THROWBACK HIP-HOP PARTY Watch Out Now

Travel back in the day as big names in hip-hop, including Grandmaster Roc Raida and the Beatnuts, perform in Five's intimate space tonight.

→ Five, 1214-B 18th St. NW; 10 p.m., \$10; 202-331-7123. (Dupont Circle)

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com

A Version All Ronson's Own

Mark Ronson's work is everywhere, but now he takes credit

MUSIC | Behind every great artist is ... a great manager? A publicist? Ultimately, a great producer.

In the case of breakout R&B spitfire Amy Winehouse, that knob-twister is London-born, New York-based super-DJ Mark Ronson.

With "Version," Ronson enlists the help of Winehouse, her reggaepop equivalent Lily Allen (whose own hit album Ronson worked on) and a crew of other British musicians to cover mostly obscure and well-known British tunes.

The album is soulfully stylish and gloriously retro.

"Valerie," an already great jangly tune by Liverpool band the Zutons, becomes Motown-riffic with Winehouse's raspy vocals and a burst of up-tempo drums and horns. Allen's melodic take on the Kaiser Chiefs' "Oh My God" lends the reflective tune a



The man behind multiple blossoming musical careers focuses on his own.

dance-happy flavor.

Ronson slyly throws Britney Spears' club anthem "Toxic" on its head, folding the song into a midtempo '60s swing and sprinkling it with horns, yearning vocals by Tiggers and rap interludes.

Beside every great producer, though, are great musicians, and the true music hero on "Version" is New York funk-soul troupe the Dap-Kings, whose backing instrumentals are truly out of sight.



WATCH IT 300 TIMES: TNT has snagged the rights to the film "300." Part of the deal stipulates the network cannot run the movie until 2009. It'll be hard to wait that long for the commercial-filled version that will surely have all the good parts edited out.

Extra Laughs, Extra Loud

Celebrities interact with Ricky Gervais - hilarity ensues

DVD | Ricky Gervais is unquestionably the star of "Extras," a BBC/HBO series about a conflicted and socially inept sitcom actor. But in the second season of the show, released on DVD on Tuesday (\$29.98), the high-profile celebrities who cameo in each of the six episodes nearly steal the focus from the co-creator of the original "Office" and Britain's official God of Comedy.

While notables like Kate Winslet and Patrick Stewart appeared in the first season of "Extras," the second

season ups the ante and the humor quotient with yet another flotilla of famous personalities eager to ruin their reputations with a few wickedly funny moments. Hence we see Orlando Bloom, busting on Johnny Depp and boasting about the many magazines that list him as sexiest male star; Chris Martin of Coldplay recording a public service announcement while wearing a T-shirt that touts a Coldplay greatest hits compilation; and Harry Potter himself, young Daniel Radcliffe, hitting on older women and even (gasp!) flinging a condom at Dame Diana Rigg.

Celebrity gawkers will get a kick out of every cheeky, Hollywood-bubble-bursting moment,



ORLANDO BLOOM'S SENSE OF HUMOR: Exists. As proven by his guest appearance (just one of many famous faces) on the HBO/BBC series "Extras."

while fans of Gervais and Stephen Merchant (the other man responsible for "The Office") will reve\l

in another dose of the duo's intentionally awkward humor.

With only six installments con-

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stituting a single season, this DVD is a pretty slim collection, which might make it more appropriate for renting than buying. Having said that, the two discs come with several bonus features, including makingof featurettes about each episode, outtakes and the especially hilarious mini-doc "The Art of Corpsing," a look at how frequently the actors break down with the giggles in the middle of a take. ("Never have I laughed out of place ever," confesses guest star Ian McKellen, "until today.") Gervais — with his highpitched, infectious guffaw — is by far the worst offender. His "Extras" character, Andy Millman, gains fast fame because of a lame catchphrase he repeatedly utters on a BBC sitcom called "When the Whistle Blows": "Are you havin' a laugh?" Clearly, Gervais was throughout production of "Extras." And, undoubtedly, anyone who watches this DVD will, too.

JEN CHANEY (WASHINGTONPOST.COM)

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Presented In Digital Projection

RATATOUILLE (G) 11:25, 2:25, 5:15, 8:05, 10:55

Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG)
FREE Summer MovieCamp 10:00 AM

FREE Summer MovieCamp 10:00 AM
HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE
PHOENIX [Pd 13] 10:00, 11:05, 12:10, 1:13, 2:20, 3:25, 4:30, 5:35, 6:40,
7:48, 5:80, 9:55, 11:00
LICENSE TO WED (PG13) 11:25, 3:50, 6:20, 8:45, 11:05
TRANSFORMERS (PG13) 11:40, 12:40, 2:55, 4:05, 6:10, 7:20, 9:30, 10:35
TRANSFORMERS (PG13) 11:40, 12:40, 2:55, 4:05, 6:10, 7:20, 9:30, 10:35
TRANSFORMERS (PG13) 11:04, 12:40, 2:55, 4:40, 5:55, 7:35, 9:30, 10:30

7:35, 900, 10:30 1408 (PG13) 12:30, 3:00, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20 EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG) 10:50, 1:20, 3:45, 9:45 FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG) 4:50 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG13) 1:05, 7:00 KNOCKED UP (R) 7:10, 10:05

SICKO (PG13) 12:15. 3:10. 6:05. 9:05

AMC SPRINGFIELD MALL 10

Loisdale and Franconia Road 703-971-3991

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOEMIX (PG13) / 12:20, 1:10, 3:30, 4:15, 6:45, 7:30, 10:00, 10:45 LICENSE TO WED (PG13) / 2:35, 5:20, 7:50 TRANSFORMERS (PG13) / 12:30, 1:20, 3:40, 4:40, 7:00, 8:00, 10:20

EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG) 2:45, 5:15, 7:45

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG)

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12

800 Shopper's Way, Largo 301-324-4220

Ice Age: The Meltdown (PG)
FREE Summer MovieCamp 10:00 AM
HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE
PHOENIX (PG13) 12:20, 3:30, 6:45, 10:30
LICENSE TO WED (PG13) 1:00, 3:15, 5:40, 8:10, 10:35
TRANSFORMES (PG13) 1:200, 12:50, 3:10, 4:00, 6:30, 7:20, 9:55, 10:35

RATATOUILLE (G) 1:30, 4:25, 7:25, 10:20 LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG13) 12:55, 3:55, 6:55, 10:05 1408 (PG13) 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 8:05, 10:30
EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG) 12:35, 3:05, 5:30, 8:00, 10:15
FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG)
12:25, 1:50, 2:50, 4:20, 5:20, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20, 10:30

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG13) 1:40, 4:40, 7:40, 10:25 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13)

6:40, 10:10 SHREK THE THIRD (PG) 1:45, 4:10

LOEWS UPTOWN 1

3426 Connecticut Avenue N.W. 1-800-FANDANGO #713

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) ✓ 12:00, 3:10, 6:30, 10:00

✓-SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT No passes or discount coupe

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16

Presented In Digital Projection

RATATOUILLE (G) 10:15, 1:10, 4:00, 6:45, 9:25

Ce Age: The Meltdown (PG)
FREE Summer MovieCamp 10:00 AM
HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE
PHOENIX [PG13] / 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 1:15, 225, 3:30, 4:40, 5:45,
7:00, 8:05, 9:10, 10:30, 11:30

1.00, 0.03, 9.10, 10.30, 11.30 LICENSE TO WED (PG13) ✓ 10:10, 12:25, 2:45, 5:15, 7:35, 10:00 TRANSFORMERS (PG13) / 10:20, 12:05, 1:45, 3:20, 5:05, 7:05,

825, 1020, 11:35 RATATOUILLE (G) 11:35, 2:15, 5:10, 8:00, 10:45 LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG13) 10:05, 11:15, 1:05, 2:20, 4:05, 5:35, 7:10, 8:35, 10:10, 11:25

1408 (PG13) 2:00. 4:25. 7:20. 9:50 **EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG)** 10:10, 12:45, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40 **EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG)** 10:10, 12:45, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40 **EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG)** 10:10:10:10:10:10:45, 3:10, 5:40, 8:10, 10:40

FANTASTIC FOUR: RISE OF THE SILVER SURFER (PG) 3:00 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG13) 10:25, 1:20, 4:20, 10:15 KNOCKED UP (R) 10:45, 1:50, 4:45, 7:50, 10:50

EVENING (PG13) 10:35, 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:35

EVENING (PG13) 10:35, 1:40, 4:35, 7:30, 10:25

AMC MAZZA GALLERIE

Jenifer and Wisconsin 202-537-9553

202-557-9565

LICENSE TO WED (PG13) / 1240, 2:50, 5:10, 7:40, 9:50

TRANSFORMERS (PG13) / 12:50, 4:00, 7:20, 10:30

RATATOUILLE (G) 1:20, 4:20, 7:05, 9:40

LIVE FREE OR DIE HARD (PG13) 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:05

EVAN ALMICHTY (PG) 1:220, 2:40, 5:00, 7:25, 9:35

OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG13) 1:00, 4:05, 7:00, 10:00 KNOCKED UP (R) 7:30, 10:20 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END (PG13)

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8

Courthouse and Birch Rd. 703-998-4AMC

LICENSE TO WED (PG13) / 12:10, 1:10, 2:30, 3:30, 4:45, 5:45,

8:00, 10:00, 10:40 1408 (PG13) 12:50, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:10 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG13) 1:30, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15 KNOCKED UP (R) 1:00, 3:50, 6:50, 9:40

LOEWS FAIRFAX SQUARE 8

8065 Leesburg Pike 703-506-9857 802

NANCY DREW (PG) 12:20, 2:45, 5:00, 8:00 SURF'S UP (PG) 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 7:00 KNOCKED UP (R) 1:20, 4:10, 7:10 MR. BROOKS (R) 1:20, 4:10, 7:10 SHREK THE THIRD (PG) 12:30, 2:35, 5:10, 8:10

A MIGHTY HEART (R) 12:15, 2:25, 4:50, 7:50 WAITRESS (PG13) 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 7:30 **AVENUE MONTAIGNE (PG13)** 12:15, 2:25, 4:40, 7:40

LOEWS DUPONT 5

1350 19th St. 1-800-FANDANGO #711

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 12:45, 4:00, 7:15, 10:15 LICENSE TO WED (PG13) 1:45, 4:45, 8:00, 10:30 OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG13) 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:20 KNOCKED UP (R) 1:15, 4:15, 7:00, 10:00

EAGLE VS. SHARK (R) 1:00, 3:00, 5:10, 7:45, 9

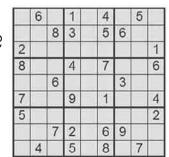
LOEWS WHITE FLINT 5

North Bethesda 1-800-FANDANGO #741

HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX (PG13) 1:40, 4:35, 7:35, 10:35 TRANSFORMERS (PG13) 2:00, 4:45, 7:20, 10:25
RATATOUILLE (G) 2:00, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
EVAN ALMIGHTY (PG) 2:30, 5:00, 7:35, 10:10
OCEAN'S THIRTEEN (PG13) 2:05, 4:35, 7:25, 10:05

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Television



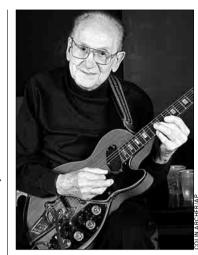
GREATEST DAY IN HISTORY OF VERMONT: Springfield, Vt., has been declared the winner of "The Simpsons Movie Springfield Challenge," even though it wasn't initially invited to participate. As a reward, it will host the film premiere on July 27.

Real Guitar Hero

Les Paul hit his peak in the '50s, but his influence is lasting

LEGEND | The "American Masters" (9 p.m., PBS) documentary "Les Paul: Chasing Sound" profiles a remarkable musician and inventor and, along the way, provides a history of 20th-century American popular music.

Still performing at 92 years of age, Les Paul has outlived his musical contemporaries and collaborators by a generation or two. His jazz-guitar sound dominated the pop charts from the late 1930s to the mid-1950s as he recorded hit records with the



STILL PICKIN': Even with 92 years under his belt, Les Paul keeps playing.

Andrews Sisters, Bing Crosby and his wife and musical partner, Mary Ford.

He was just a teen when he performed with cowboy-music bands in Wisconsin and Chicago. After his country gigs, he would spend his offhours in the South Side jazz clubs, where he sat in with jazz greats like Art Tatum and Lester Young.

Paul is one of those rare artists fortunate enough to have gone in and out of style several times in his own lifetime. After 16 top-10 hits from 1950 to 1954, his career was eclipsed by the rise of rock and roll. Still, musicians including B.B King, Tony Bennett, Richard Carpenter, Keith Richards, Jeff Beck and Paul McCartney appear here to sing Les Paul's praises. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

ON TV TONIGHT

NEW YORK'S OTHER TEAM

The documentary **BROOKLYN DODGERS** (8 p.m., HBO) recalls 10 momentous year in the history of the Dodgers franchise.

OH, THE SUSPENSE!

The remaining 14 perform on **SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DANCE** (8 p.m., Fox).

WHAT A HARD, STRANGE SPORT IT IS SYNCHRONIZED SWIMMING: THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE (8 p.m., PBS) follows two teams of would-be Olympians as they practice and prepare for a meticulously coordinated feat of water ballet.

PRESENTING THE HELPFUL MAN A relief for women proposed on **AMERICAN INVENTOR** (9 p.m., ABC).

'THE SINGING BEE' SPIN-OFF Wayne Brady hosts **DON'T FORGET THE LYRICS** (9:30 p.m., Fox), the second karaoke



YOU WISH YOU'D THOUGHT OF THAT:

Tune in to "American Inventor" tonight.

contest to pop up in the past two days.

ONE POTATO, TWO POTATO, ETC.
Cooking by numbers on TOP CHEF
(10 p.m., Bravo).

KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

.07	6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
WRC	News (N) [CC]			Access Hollywood			America's Got Tale		Last Comic Standi	ng (N) () [CC]	News (N) (CC)	Tonight Show
WITG	Seinfeld () (CC)			Seinfeld () (CC)		Can Dance The 14 dan		Don't Forget	News (N)		News (N)	Every-Raymo
NJLA [7 News (N) [00]	ABC Wid News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Next Best Thing		American Inventor	1 - 7 -	Traveler "The Reuni		News (N) [00]	(:35) Nightline
WUSA	News (N) [55]	Evening News	News	Entertainment	King of Queens	King of Queens	Criminal Minds "P9	11" () 🖾	CSI: NY "Heart of G		News (N) [65]	Late Show
NDCA 2	O Judge Judy 🖾	Judge Joe Brown	Scrubs () [G]	Scrubs () [G]	American Heiress	"Episode 21" (N)	Saints & Sinners "E	pisode 21" (N) û	Still Standing ()		Malcolm-Mid.	Malcolm-Mid.
WMPT (2 The NewsHour W	ith Jim Lehrer (N)	Business Rpt.	Artworks-Week	Synchronized Swi	mming: The Pursuit	American Masters	"Les Paul: Chasing So	ound" (N) Iccl	Soundies: A Musica	al History Hosted b	y Michael Feins
WETA E	6 BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour Wit	th Jim Lehrer (N)	Synchronized Swi	mming: The Pursuit	A Hot Dog Progran	n () [SS]	American Masters	"Les Paul: Chasing So	ound" (N) 🖾	Charlie Rose
WHUT E	2 Business Schl	Tavis Smiley ()	BBC World News	Moneywise	Craft in America "	Memory" ♠ Iccl	Boogie & the Blues	Diva: 2004 Motor	BBC World News	Tavis Smiley ()	Charlie Rose (N)	[CC]
WDCW (My Wife and Kids	My Wife and Kids	Friends () [00]	Friends () [00]	America's Next To	p Model () [95]	America's Next Top	Model () [00]	Will & Grace ()	Will & Grace ()	Sex and the City	Sex and the C
A&E	Cold Case Files @		CSI: Miami "Dead V	Woman Walking"	CSI: Miami () [00]		CSI: Miami "Simple	Man" () [00]	The Sopranos "Eve	rybody Hurts" () [00]		(:16) The First
Animal	The Crocodile Hu	nter Diaries [CC]	The Most Extreme	Fooled by Nature	Planet Earth Rarel	y seen desert life.	Planet Earth "Ice W	orlds" [CC]	Animal Planet Her	oes Phoenix (N)	The Most Extreme	Fooled by Nat
3ET	106 & Park: BET's	Top 10 Live [66]	-	Hell Date 300	Access Granted	Baldwin Hills	Baldwin Hills	Girlfriends [65]	Girlfriends [66]	Girlfriends [60]	Take the Cake (Liv	e) [60]
Bravo	Top Chef "Finale"	A winner is chosen.	Top Chef Contestan	nts prepare. [00]	Top Chef Fruit, (CC)	-	Top Chef Shellfish.	cc)	Top Chef "Cooking	by the Numbers"	Top Chef "Cooking	by the Numbers'
Comedy	"Planes, Trains ar	d Automobiles"	Scrubs O ICC	Scrubs () (00)	Reno 911! [60]	Reno 911! [CC]	Chappelle's Show	South Park [50]	South Park [00]	Lil' Bush [00]	Daily Show	Colbert Repor
Court	World's Wildest P		Cops () [cc]	Cops () [CC]	Most Shocking "D		Forensic Files (N)			Psychic Detect	Psychic Detect	Psychic Detec
-	Cash Cab (CC)	Cash Cab		How It's Made	MythBusters "Expl		MythBusters "Dead		Cash Cab (N)	Cash Cab (N)	MythBusters (CC)	a later between the
DISCH	Code Blue "One D		Impact: Stories of		Trauma: Life in the		Plastic Surgery: Be		Plastic Surgery Be		Trauma: Life in the	FR [cc]
Disney		A CONTRACTOR OF THE CONTRACTOR	Hannah Montana			r" (2000) Maggie Laws				Life With Derek	Zack & Cody	Hannah Monta
Jisney I	Simple Life	Simple Life	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)		e Hollywood Story		Girl Next Door	Sunset Tan	Sunset Tan	E! News	The Daily 10
		Given Sunday" (1999, I				, Action) Jennifer Gar			Rescue Me Jerry's	V 44 - 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	(:05) Rescue Me Je	
X	Look What I Did!			House Hunters	Designed to Sell		Design on a Dime			House Worth?	Junk Brothers (N)	
HGTV			Grounded for Life							riouse worth?	The second second second second second	What s-riouse
amily	8 Simple Rules	8 Simple Rules		The second secon		Man" (1999) Robin Wi				to feel	The 700 Club (cc)	
History	Modern Marvels: \$		Marvel: Chrysler B		Modern Marvels: F		Modern Marvels: M				Hell's Angels ©	Trem a a
Lifetime		Reba () [60]		Still Standing ()	Reba () [00]	Reba () [00]			Mimi Rogers, David O		Will & Grace ()	Will & Grace 6
MTV	America's Next To			Engaged	Super Sweet 16	Super Sweet 16	Super Sweet			The X Effect ()	Sweet 16 Cash Mo	
NICK	Zoey 101 ICC	Ned's School		Ned's School	Drake & Josh ()	SpongeBob	Home Videos	Roseanne [CC]	Roseanne (CC)	Roseanne [CC]	Roseanne 🖾	Roseanne 🖾
SCIFI	Stargate SG-1 "N	CONTRACTOR SOURCES	Ghost Hunters ()	No. of the last of	Ghost Hunters ()		Ghost Hunters The	Control to the second	Destination Truth (Charles and the control of the contr	Ghost Hunters The	The state of the s
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene		CSI: Crime Scene I		CSI: Crime Scene		CSI: Crime Scene I	The state of the s	CSI: Crime Scene		CSI: NY "Hush" ()	
TBS	Seinfeld () 🕮	Seinfeld () [60]	Every-Raymond	- Alexander - Control - Co	Every-Raymond		House of Payne	A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH	Every-Raymond	The state of the s	King of Queens	
rLC	Flip That House	Flip That House	Honey We're Killing		The Boy Who See		Man Whose Arms E		Mystery Diagnosis		The Boy Who See	
TNT	Law & Order "Whi	plash" O	Law & Order "Attor	ney Client" O	Law & Order "Para	digm" ()	Law & Order "Red B	all" O	Law & Order "Locor	motion" ()	Heartland "Mother	& Child Reunion"
JSA	Law & Order: Crin	ninal Intent 🖾	Law & Order: Crimi	inal Intent 🚾	Law & Order: Crim	inal Intent 🔯	Law & Order: Crimi	nal Intent "Grow"	Law & Order: Crimi	inal Intent 🔯	Law & Order: Crim	inal Intent 🕼
/HI	I Love the '90s "199	96" ()	I Love the '90s "1997	7" ()	I Love the '90s "199	8" ()	World Series of Pop	Culture (N) ()	Young, Rich and O	ut of Control ()	World Series of Po	p Culture ()
TELEM	Daniela	Noti-Telemndo	Dame Chocolate		Madre Luna	74	Zorro - La Espada y	la Rosa	La Esclava Isaura		Noti-Telemndo	12 Corazones
JNIV	Que Locura	Noticiero Univ	Yo Amo a Juan Que	erendón	Copa América	Copa América Sem	ifinal. (En Vivo)				Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ
SPN	SportsCenter (Liv	e) [cc]		State Farm Home Run			Softball: All-Star C		The Bronx Is Burni		SportsCenter (Live) (00
ESPN2	Ray Evernham	NASCAR Now	Interruption	Minor League Base	ball AAA All-Star G	ame. From Isotopes Pa	rk in Albuquerque, N.N	A. (Live)		Boxing	Boxing Wednesday	Night Fights. (Liv
CSN	Washington	SportsNite @	NBA Summer Lead	gue Basketball Detro	it Pistons vs. Washin	gton Wizards.	Cal's Call to the Ha	II: Cal's Stories	SportsNite (Live)		Boxing: Best Damn	Champ.
NN	Lou Dobbs Tonigh	t [cc]	The Situation Room	m	Paula Zahn Now 🛭	0]	Larry King Live [00]		Anderson Cooper 3	60 [06]		
NC	Special Report (L	ve) (cc)	The Fox Report Wit	th Shepard Smith	The O'Reilly Facto	or (Live) ICC	Hannity & Colmes	(Live) CC	On the Record-Van	Susteren	The O'Reilly Facto	or
MSNBC	Tucker		Hardball [60]		Countdown With F	Ceith Olbermann	Scarborough Coun	try	The Confessions o	f a Serial Killer Jeffr	ey Dahmer.	
AMC	** "Below" (2002	Suspense) Matthew D	avis, Bruce Greenwoo	od. 'R' 🔯	** "U.S. Marshal	s" (1998) Tommy Lee Jo	ones. Sam Gerard gets	caught up in another	fugitive case. 'PG-13'	-	*** "Patriot Gar	nes" (1992) 'R'
rcm.	(5:45) * * * "The I	oved One" (1965, Com	edy) Robert Morse. 'N	NR' [00]	* * * "Barefoot in	the Park" (1967, Com	edy) Robert Redford.	G' [00]	*** The Phila	delphia Story" (1940)	Cary Grant. 'NR' [00]	(DVS)
HBO	** "Fantastic Fo	ur" (2005, Action) loan	Gruffudd. A 'PG-13' P	CC)	Brooklyn Dodgers	The Ghosts of Flath	ush (N) () (CC)		Big Love "Vision Th	ing" () [CC]	John From Cincinn	nati () [CC]
MAX	(:15) * * "She's th	e Man" (2006) Amanda	Bynes. () 'PG-13' [60]			2006, Drama) David Al		O 'R' [00]	** "Miami Vice" (2006, Crime Drama) Co	olin Farrell, Jamie Fo	ox. () 'R' [60]
SHOW		Bud Greenspan Pre			Meadowlands (ITV		*** "Hustle & Flo				Boxing: Alcine vs.	
	(5:35) ★★ "The Hi					ardo DiCaprio. O 'PG-				ock, Don Cheadle, O '		Brothers
TMC		review Franch II	Decease and interior	and men made. (10				A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH		ending the facility of a contract from the contract	17.00	The state of the s
TARZI		(2001) Jean Reno. () 'P	G-13' (cc)	* * "Stick It" (2006,	Comedy-Drama) .let	Bridges O 'PG-13' lo	6	(:20) ** "Little Ma	n" (2006) Shawn Wava	ns (1) 'PG-13'	Head Case CC	M. Lawrence

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Seeking ambitious up-and-comer who is bright, fun, focused, and driven to exceed sales goals. Must be coachable, play well with others & work independently. Sell across our print and online advertising products. Prospect for and close new business. Be welcomed by your colleagues, enjoy a supportive management structure, develop your skills, and accelerate your career. Base starting at \$34K, earning potential up to \$100K. Top performers can earn \$80K in year one. For more information: www.washpostco.com. Resume to: talentsearch@washpost.com. Attn: IOEXP/JT

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hoyt@tysonsford.com
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Experience Mixer

needed immediately in Sterling, VA. Must be able to work a flexible schedule-weekends a must. Email resume to debbie@federalbakers.us or fax to 703-312-6051.

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\$19M Credit Union located in northeast Washington, Dc seeks a member service representative. Candidate will be responsible for providing a variety of account services, including opening and updating accounts, issuing ATM/Visa check cards, and responding to general service-related request. Responsibilities will include promoting existing services, by identifying cross selling opportunities. Experience in processing exceptions related to ACH (electronic) and sharedraft checking transactions, is highly designable. Prof. tions related to ACH (electronic) and sharedraft checking transactions, is highly desirable. Preferably candidate will have 2 years previous experience in a financial institution, excellent interpersonal skills, computer literacy skills and aptitude for multi-tasking. Please send resume with cover letter to: pyates@ wpefcu.com or Fax: 202-269-3060

BEAUTY/HAIR STYLIST—Very busy salon. Lic. req'd. Commiss. up to 70%. Call 301-735-0002/301-452-8558, ask for Debbie or Suk BEAUTY

MD. Booth rent & commiss. Call 301-448-6511.

BOOKKEEPER Hair Stylists needed for Hair Diva Inc. in Beltsville,

Well-established firm in Beltsville looking for Well-established Iffil in Beitsville looking to Bookkeeper. Neatness and good recordkeeping skills a must. Will train on in-house software. Good benefits, pay negotiable. Email resume to: sully@capitalplasticsco.com

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Up to \$3000 per wk. Trans. a must. Sandy, 410-808-0470.

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JOBS

CARE GIVER

L/I/LO Care Givers for the Elderly. Bowie area. Exper'd pref. CPR, First Aid, Medication training. Will train. NS. Call 301-262-3900 or 301-854-6280 between 10-5.

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Excellent salary & benefits Package: health/dental/life Insurance, tuition reimbursement, 401k, & much, much more!

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Call 202-526-1313
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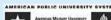
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JOBS

DENTAL - Alexandria Front Desk Admin. F/T. Excel. communication skills, team work, efficient, fun. Computer exper. Dental exper a MUST. Fax resume to: 703-548-0014. www.

thleenmullaneydds.com Director/Child Care Coordinator

DIFECTOR/CRIIIG CARE COORGINATOR
FT pos. in MSDE approved early childhood prog.
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20715; fax: 301-262-2148. Deadline: 7/20.





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Initiate, develop, maintain and expand relationships with major public and private corporations, focusing initially on federal contractors and other commercial organizations that have business practices that align closely with APUS curricula. Experience in cold calling required. APUS is an 100% online University, fully accredited, with over 24,000 students world wide. Exceptional benefits: 401K Matching, FREE Education! Send resumes to: HR@apus.edu

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Submit a MS100 application by 7/25/07 to Dept of Juvenile Services - OHR, One Center Plaza, 120 W. Fayette St., Balto., MD 21201. To download the MS100 & for detailed info including degree requirements, go to www.djs.state.md.us or www.dbm.maryland.gov. EOE

MD Dept of Juvenile Serivices

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Immediate positions available in Beltsville and Baltimore, MD. No CDL license required. Some exper is a must. Apply in person at 10811 Tucker St. Beltsville, MD 20705 or contact Alvin at: 301-595-3840

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Generalists: Hyattsville, MD. Early AM hours. Perform daily truck off load, product set up, assist with route deliveries. Reliable car required.

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JOBS

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DUMP TRUCK DRIVER CDL. 3 years exp. 202-327-1949

Electrician

Flectrician

The Washington Post has an immediate opening for an Electrician in downtown Dc. Requires 4 or more years experience maintaining & trouble shooting electrical systems; Working knowledge of the National Electric Code; Ability to read & understand blueprints; Special consideration given to applicants with a Dc journeyman license. Responsible for performing maintenance on existing and new electrical systems; Performing small electrical projects & renovations, Working with other craft & outside contractors; Working well without full time supervision. Send cover letter w/ sal. req's/resume to:

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Attn: HR/ELECT/JB 1150 15th St, NW Washington, DC 20071 Fax (202) 334-5658 talentsearch@washpost.com

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Electrician

The National Gallery of Art seeks to hire an electrician with experience in the installation, modification, repairing, inspecting, troubleshooting, testing, loading, and maintaining of building electrical components, circuits, associated fixtures, controls, equipments, and systems. The individual shall have proficiency in reading, drawing, and interpreting electrical ladder and construction diagrams. Position requires indoor and outdoor work and heavy physical effort. Five years experience in an industrial work environment and a Journeyman's class A certification is desirable. Secure government job with great benefits. \$22.57-\$26.36 per nour. Call Mr. Bixler at (202) 842-6350 for more info. U.S. citizenship is required. For specific application information and instructions go to http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/apnga.asp. The vacancy announcement number is #07-50. Applications will be accepted through 7/13/07. The National Gallery of Art seeks to hire an electrician

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The Washington Post has an immediate Full Time opening for an experienced Building Engineer in our Downtown DC office.

Oualified candidates must meet the following reqs:

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For all teaching positions, must have or be eligible for MSDE certification. For detailed info & to download an application go to www.DBM.maryland.gov. For add'l info call 410

A/C Equipment Mechanic

The National Gallery of Art has multiple vacancies for A/C Equipment Mechanics responsible for operating, maintaining, and repairing mechanical systems, air handlers, pumps, and compressors, etc. Secure government job, great benefits. Starting wages \$47,000. Call Mr. John Bixler at 202-842-6350 for more informa-Call Mr. John Bixler at 202-842-6350 for more informa-tion. U.S. citizenship is required. For specific applica-tion information and instructions go to http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/a9nga.asp. The va-cancy announcement number is #07-17. Applications will be accepted through 9/28/07.

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MANAGER F/T, M-F & flex. hrs. Must have a degree. Exper. pref'd. working w/MR pop. or developmentally disa-bled. Fax resume: 202-291-8266; Call 202-722-2224

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You will drive our growth strategy for our online and our print recruitment products. With a systematic and analytical approach, you will be able to capture new revenue streams by identifying customer needs through data analysis, listening to customer calls, and sales rep input. You will develop product and pricing strategies to maximize revenue. You will build, coach, motivate and provide direction for your team. Requires marketing analysis and management experience. Outmarketing analysis and management experience. Out-bound sales or business development exper. preferred. More info: www.washpostco.com. Send resume to talentsearch@washpost.com, Attn: SMJOBEX/JT

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Marketing

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MEDIA PLANNER
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MRI TECHS (Nights) ICU RNs (Nights)

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Full time, (day and evening shifts) and weekend Baylor shift (32 hrs per weekend), as well as part time positions available for individuals with at least one year working with 'at risk' youth in a residential, psychiatric health care setting. Prefer individuals with Associate's or Bachelor's degree in one of the behavioral sciences.

Riverside Hospital 4460 MacArthur Blvd., NW, Washington, DC 20007 FAX (202) 333-0976

cpicard@riverside-dc.com EOE

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Needed immediately in Sterling, VA. Must be able to work flexible schedule and weekends a must. Email resume to

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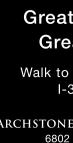


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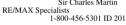
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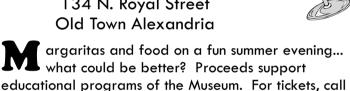
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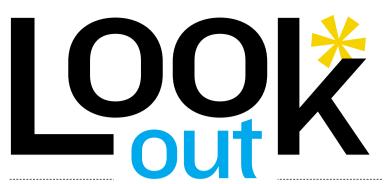
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WWI Tribute

A Belgian's unique soldiers are crafted from the shells of war

The summer plowing season in Flanders Fields is a good time for Ivan Sinnaeve.

Known as "Shrapnel Charlie," he keeps alive memories of one of history's bloodiest battles by melting down the World War I shells harvested by farmers and transforming them into toy soldiers that he calls "soldiers of peace."

"I can't make them quick enough," said Sinnaeve, as he showed off some of the 250 shiny lead bagpipers he produced for the anniversary.

The 54-year-old Belgian history buff has a huge following among war pilgrims visiting Flanders Fields, the battleground of 1914 to 1918.

Sinnaeve, a retired carpenter, is busier than usual this year, on the 90th anniversary of the phase of fighting called the Battle of Passchendaele, which saw some of the war's worst trench warfare and its first use of mustard gas.

A half-million Britons, Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians and Germans were killed or

wounded, fighting among villages and farms over five miles of muddy Belgian terrain. Drawn out over five months, Passchendaele became a symbol of senseless killing.

Piet Chielens, head of the In Flanders Fields Museum in Ypres, said the region is "like the laboratory of war."

"It was all-out war, for the first time in its most absurd form," he said. "There was no real reason for doing this, and there was no real strategy."

Sinnaeve said he always asks the



RETURN TO ACTION: Ivan Sinnaeve shows one of his handcrafted toy soldiers.

nades, and an unexploded basketball-size aerial bomb her husband Dirk plowed up.

Farmers have to use extra care because some shells still leak toxic gases. However, explosions are rare because the farmers have become experienced at handling the iron

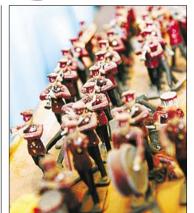
"We got 17 pieces this plowing season, but we can expect even more later this year," said Cardoen-Descamps. The ammunition is neatly stacked around the farmyard, ready to be collected by bomb disposal experts.

'The nasty shells for us are the gas shells, of course, because we can't identify those anymore," she said. "The color code which gave

farmers where they found the metal they bring to him, "so I know which regiments were involved." He thinks some of the iron may be from the shells fired at the regiments he is now commemorating as "soldiers of peace."

The proceeds of the sales are helping to pay for a new memorial for all the Scottish regiments in Britain and its empire that were mobilized for World War I.

The memorial is to be unveiled later this year, and on Thursday,



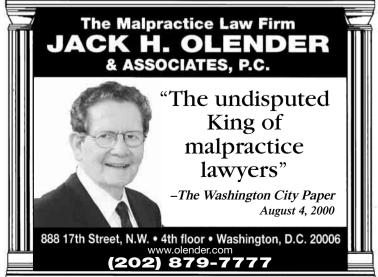
the official anniversary, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II will be among the dignitaries visiting war graves in Flanders Fields.

Few battlefields in the world still yield so many bombs, guns and bones - 200 tons a year around Ypres.

"You never know what my husband brings home; you can bet it's not a bunch of flowers," said farmer Charlotte Cardoen-Descamps, chuckling as she shows a fresh crop of shells, gas shells, greaway the content has rusted away, so if we shake it gently and we hear something slushing around — well, be careful."

In Sinnaeve's cramped townhouse, the living room, dining room and kitchen are littered with model soldiers, molds and tiny paint cans.

He has been making his models for 14 years and says he earns no profit and is happy just to know that "I have soldiers all over the world." CONSTANT BRAND (AP)





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On the Railroad Again

Travel

Amtrak's luxury cars recall the glamour of the 1940s and '50s

Mahogany interiors, five-course meals and personal butler service will be available on several Amtrak routes starting this fall. as the national passenger railroad embarks on a new partnership with GrandLuxe Rail Journeys.

The companies have teamed up to attach seven special GrandLuxe cars to regularly scheduled Amtrak trains. More than 90 departures are scheduled from November to early January.

The new service, dubbed Grand-Luxe Limited, will be available between Chicago and the San Francisco Bay area, Chicago and Los Angeles, and Washington and Miami. Limited trips are also scheduled between Washington and Chicago, from Denver to San Francisco, from Denver to Chicago; and from



Porters await passengers on the GrandLuxe Limited, now a partner with Amtrak.

Chicago to Albuquerque.

For Amtrak, the partnership will be a moneymaker, company spokesman Cliff Black said.

The project marks the first time Amtrak is providing regularly scheduled private rail services.

"We like the opportunity to experiment with creative marketing approaches," Black said. "Anything that elevates the profile of passenger-train service is benefi**//** Anything

elevates the profile of passenger-train service is beneficial to Amtrak."

CLIFF BLACK, AMTRAK

cial to Amtrak."

The arrangement allows Evergreen, Colo.-based GrandLuxe, formerly known as American Orient Express, to bring its brand of luxury to a wider group of potential customers in a more affordable format.

Tickets for the two- and threeday GrandLuxe Limited trips will range in price from \$789 to \$2,499. In contrast, GrandLuxe's regular tours take seven to 10 days and range in price from about \$4,000 to \$8,000 per person.

For its longer trips, GrandLuxe operates one 21-car train that consists of old passenger cars from the 1940s and 1950s — a time when train travel had not yet been overshadowed by the interstate highway system and commercial aviation. The cars have been refurbished to conform to modern standards and to add "a level of luxury that never existed," said Christina Messa, vice president of marketing for GrandLuxe.

For the Amtrak partnership, GrandLuxe will split its train in three. Each segment will have a dining car and a lounge car and room for 47 passengers, Messa said.

GrandLuxe trains tend to appeal to older travelers, and Messa said she expected the new Amtrak routes to do the same.

Tom Weakley, 64, has ridden GrandLuxe trains 16 times since retiring from a job in the drug wholesaling industry. He said he relishes being pampered on board the train. A butler brings coffee in the morning. In the afternoon, there are cocktails in the lounge car.

The lounge cars themselves vary. One features a baby grand piano; another, used for particularly scenic routes, is surrounded by glass.

Dinners are long and unhurried - an opportunity to make friends with fellow passengers, said Weakley, of Indianapolis.

"Did I mention the complimentary wine?" he added. "And they don't limit you to one glass." SARAH KARUSH (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area



Regional Weather

Morgantown 2 80/55

2 Charleston







91/68

Baltimore 93/68

Washington, DC

Virginia Beach 🤮





Saturday



89° / 72°











Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Tues

Temperature	
ligh	98°
_ow	78°
Normal high	88
Normal low	70°
Average humidity	65%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.73"
Month to date	0.87"
Normal month to date	1.15"
Year to date	16.04"
Last year to date	27.62"
Normal year to date	20.31"

washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, an afternoon thunder-storm. High 93. Wind westsouthwest 7-14 mph. Tonight, thunderstorms. Low 68.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today	<i>,</i>	5:	52 a.m.
Sunset tonigh	nt	8:	35 p.m.
Moonrise tod	ay	2:	32 a.m.
Moonset toda	ay	6:	24 p.m.



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National Weather for Wednesday, July 11

National	Cities		World Cities					
City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Thur. Hi/Lo/W			
Atlanta	88/69/t	90/70/pc	Amsterdam	66/57/c	70/57/t			
Boston	86/66/pc	80/64/t	Athens	93/70/s	90/72/s			
Chicago	78/59/pc	80/61/t	Berlin	6I/45/sh	64/50/t			
Dallas	94/76/t	93/77/pc	Buenos Aires	50/34/s	52/39/pc			
Denver	88/60/t	89/59/t	Calgary	80/52/pc	79/55/pc			
Honolulu	89/77/s	89/76/s	Dublin	66/55/pc	66/54/pc			
Los Angeles	79/63/pc	82/64/pc	Geneva	6I/47/sh	72/55/c			
Miami	94/79/t	91/80/s	Moscow	73/63/pc	88/62/pc			
New York City	87/70/t	86/69/pc	Rome	75/55/s	79/59/s			
Orlando	94/74/t	93/74/t	Sydney	59/47/pc	61/49/pc			
Seattle	98/62/s	86/60/s	Tokyo	79/72/t	78/72/r			

Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007

Styles



SWINS The SWINS Things

Even non-golfing guys can look ready to hit the links in style

Not every man is a golfer, but makers of golf clothing are moving toward looks they hope will appeal to the everyman.

And they're using golf celebrities to announce to the world that one's golf wardrobe can include a rich variety of colors, styles and clothes that are comfortable enough to swing your club at 125 miles per hour like Bubba Watson does.

PGA Tour stars who double as labels aren't new: Greg Norman, Nick Price and Jack Nicklaus all have their names attached to polo shirts. But new clothing lines fronted by Watson and another that honors the name of the late Payne Stewart are trying to draw attention to those golfers' personal styles.

Watson is ranked third overall on the PGA Tour and No. 1 when it comes to driving distance, but it's his ability to connect to guys like him from Baghdad, Fla., that he's most known for.

That's why Steve & Barry's, the retail chain that boasts inexpensive items but big-name partners like Sarah Jessica Parker and Stephon Marbury, is launching the Bubba Golf collection this month.

There will be 30 styles, all for \$14.98 or less, available at the Bubba debut, including three-button and zip-front shirts, a lightweight wind shirt and wrinkle-resistant pants.

Because Watson likes to

have room when he winds up that power-house swing, all the shirts have longer, looser sleeves.

"I like stuff that stands out a bit," Watson says. "This is what you'd see if you opened my closet: lime green, pink, yellows and baby blues."

Meanwhile, Garan, a division of Berkshire Hathaway, is using Stewart, who died in a plane crash in 1999, as its inspiration for a brand that hopes to make a splash with its rainbow of colors. Stewart's fami- ly has given its

blessing to the

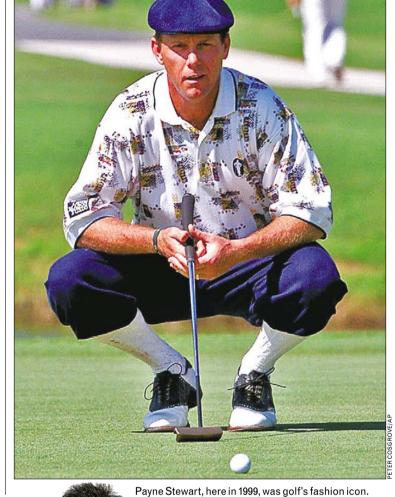
Two shirts from the

new Payne Stewart

golf line are inspired

by the late player's

sense of style.



apparel line, said Larry Reiner, vice president of the initiative.

"The Payne Stewart name was always synonymous with color and fashion. It's still a popular name today," Reiner said. "He's the only fashion icon in the history of golf that we can identify."

At price points ranging from \$38 to \$65, the Payne Stewart Collection will be more expensive than Bubba Golf, but less than most of the pro shop brands.

Five years ago, women bought the bulk of men's apparel, according to Reiner, but that's not the case anymore, with men buying an equal amount, if not more, of their own clothes. Men aren't looking for the next hot fashion. Instead, they're more likely to react to color or presentation, he said. That's what the line aims to capitalize on.

"When you see the color story, patterns, different types of yarn, you'll see an array of things that when presented together it's almost entertainment," says Reiner.

SAMANTHA CRITCHELL (AP)

Men's



Drink It Up, Kids!

CAROLINA HERRERA 212 SPLASH for Women, the perfume styled to look like a soda can. (The better to up the chance your kid will drink it.) The men's version (\$54, Sephora), which shares the poison-riffic packaging, is very pleasant: spicy and light, though it has a mild twinge of chemical lemon that's reminiscent of a urinal cake. We'd recommend it to your favorite high school boy. He'll like the bottle, while the ladies in his chemistry class will like that it's not Axe. KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

Two weeks ago, we reviewed

Advertising



Something Smells

NASCAR's Tony Stewart has hopped from the driver's seat to the pit crew the armpit crew. In a marketing campaign that's tasteless even for a sport that involves staring at speeding billboards for hours on end, OLD SPICE has purchased space in the armpits of Stewart's racing suit to plug its new Old Spice NASCAR Collector Series. The right pit features the brand name, while the left declares "In Stores Now!" To get extra mileage from the gimmick, a series of TV ads are set to show Stewart in various settings weight lifting, being interviewed—to highlight his overpriced underarms. JEN BEASLEY (EXPRESS)



readexpress.com

site specifics

MUSEUMS

Star Map

Wednesday's Smithsonian Residents program "Time, Place and Space" focuses on the origins of humans looking skyward for guidance in timekeeping and geography. Dr. David DeVorkin talked to Express contributor Katherine Silkaitis about the ways of the ancient civilizations. | ONLINE NOW



MUSIC

Sanguine Lupine

With an Arcade Fire-sized lineup, Le Loup's sound is atmospheric. The band builds serious weather from mere whispers, starting with a single banjo line. Express contributor Kriston Capps caught up with songwriter Sam Simkoff to discuss the group's eclectic ingenuity. | ONLINE NOW

Italian Classic to Close

The District will lose another one of its dining institutions when A.V. Ristorante Italiano, a mainstay on New York Avenue, closes its doors after 58 years of business. Express contributor Jamie R. Liu takes a look back at the history of the classic restaurant. | ONLINE NOW



comment board

This is seriously getting ridiculous. How can anyone defend this anymore? Executive privilege is not a blank check, and it was never intended to be. Is this the man that talked about bringing ethics back to the White House?'

COMMENTER PMMJ, RESPONDING TO TUESDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, "IS BUSH RIGHT TO DENY CONGRESS ACCESS TO HIS EX-AIDES?



The president has openly instructed two private citizens (former White House employees) not to cooperate with pending congressional investigations. My understanding is that this is an impeachable offense.'

COMMENTER SHANE, WHO ADDED, "THE PRESIDENT IS COATED WITH TEFLON, [WHILE] 'DUMBOCRATS' JUST ROLL OVER AND PLAY DEAD."

poll center

TODAY'S QUESTION

2. No

Does McCain have any hope of winning the GOP nomination?

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Is Bush right to deny **Congress access to** his ex-aides?

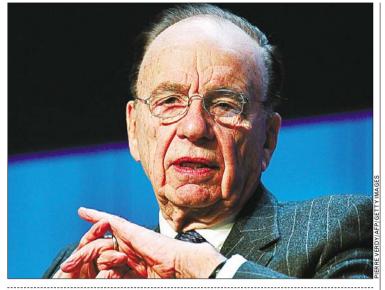
AS OF 5 P.M. TUESDAY. NOT A SCIENTIFIC POLL.



YES

"But I would recommend that for their 100th annual convention two years from now, they come up with something ... a little more realistic."

PLUNDERBUND.COM DOES NOT THINK THE NAACP'S SYMBOLIC FUNERAL FOR THE N-WORD IN DETROIT WILL DO MUCH GOOD TO CURB THE USE OF THE OFFENSIVE TERM



"It's not as though there [is] much of a difference between Fox and the editorial slant of the [Wall Street Journal to begin with."

A COMMENTER AT **GAWKER.COM** WONDERS "WHY PEOPLE MAKE SUCH A BIG STINK ABOUT THE FACT THAT THE WSJ WON'T HAVE ANY INDEPENDENCE UNDER [RUPERT] MURDOCH." PICTURED ABOVE.



THAT JACKET seems to have started life as an ode to Tudor-era fashions, and then veered off into something Fraulein Maria might have made from a bedspread and given to Joan Collins."

GOFUGYOURSELF.TYPEPAD.COM CRITIQUES A DRESS WORN BY SARAH JESSICA PARKER AT A RECENT VALENTING EVENT

"ON SUNDAY MORNING, most waiters are hungover and wiped out from doing the things that are supposed to get you into Hell in the first place! Giving a waiter a religious tract is like giving Mephistopheles a parking ticket!"

ON WAITERRANT.NET, A WAITER SAYS IT'S STUPID FOR CHURCH-GOERS HEADING TO BRUNCH TO LEAVE RELIGIOUS MATERIALS BEHIND ON THE TABLE FOR SERVERS

"ARE WE REALLY ready to let those responsible for such terrorism defeat us and conquer Iraq? If so, does anyone believe they will be satisfied with that victory over us and not move on to challenge us elsewhere?"

AN ANKLEBITINGPUNDITS.COM COMMENTER

Discussions

Live Earth

Washington Post music critic J. FREEDOM DU LAC was online Tuesday and talked about Live Earth, summer music and some new artists.

I caught some of the Live Earth coverage online and some on Bravo, I've never been a Keith Urban fan. but his duet with Alicia Kevs was good, Kanve West's performance with the Police was embarrassing, to say the least.

Was it more embarrassing than Sting introducing Al Gore as "another bass guitarist"?

So, is the summer as bad for music as it is for television and sports? Am I doomed to a summer of crappy albums, or is there hope in the future?

Depends on your definition of crappy (and, conversely, good). The new White Stripes album is fantastic, as is the Spoon album that was released today. The Josh Ritter record that comes out in August is a quality entertainment product. I have high hopes for that Common CD that's coming out later this month.

What's your take on Lily Allen? I can't decide whether I like her music or whether I am being momentarily swayed by mindless pop.

Love some of her stuff, precisely because it's such mindless pop. But it's exceptionally crafted mindless pop, and she shows her teeth some, too. A great combo of salty and sweet.

Those scientists at the Antarctic research station deserve some sort of award for performing outdoors in temperatures of 15 degrees below

I was really awestruck by that performance. That couldn't have been comfortable.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS:

Orioles beat writer Adam Kilgore takes your questions and comments about the team at the season's halfway mark at Ip.m. | washingtonpost.com/discussions.



GET READY FOR ON-THE-CLOCK NURSING. The D.C. Council preliminarily approved a law that would require employers to allow women to breast-feed on the job. The Child's Right to Nurse Act of 2007 would "ensure a woman's right to breast-feed in any location where she has the right to be with her child, public or private."

Bizarro | Dan Piraro

Who had the lentil soup with 2,316 grains of salt? ... And the tabouli made with only the fronds from the left half of the parsley leaves?

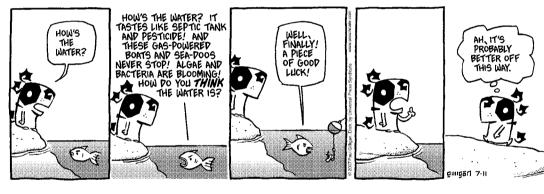
HIGH-MAINTENANCE SUPPER CLUB

Cornered | *Mike Baldwin*



"Sorry, we don't treat stab wounds."

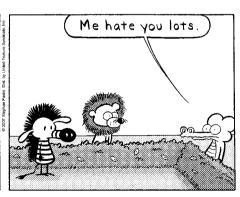
Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis







The Duplex | Glenn McCoy







Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Do you really feel you're in a situation that promotes trust among friends and allies? If not, then the time has come to make a change.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Someone will be eager to hear your deepest, darkest secrets - but will he or she be willing, when the time comes, to share with you?

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You usually make friends quickly and with ease, but for some reason you may be feeling on guard.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You're interested in broadening your circle of allies, but you may not know just how to promote your ideas and get others to pledge support.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Don't expect someone who has pledged friendship to back away when things get rough and you must resist the temptation to do that, too.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You're in the mood for a little something special. During the evening hours, a loved one may treat you to something rather luxurious.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You may be unusually stubborn. Don't be fooled by someone who claims to have something you need, when he or she is really begging.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You may be nervous about something new that you've just gotten involved with, but someone you know will prevent you from making a mistake.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You're in no mood to be pushed. Take care you don't present yourself in a way that invites others to become aggressive or intrusive.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may be asking yourself how to do certain things. Why try to go it alone? There are those who know how to help — and will.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) It will take a great deal to stir your anger, but once you've been pushed that far you can be sure the sparks will fly. Use care.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Now is no time for a grudge — no matter what the reasons are that you may have for being angry or disappointed in someone else. Forgive and forget.

Letters

Praise for Md. Sex-Ed Plan

I WANT TO applaud the Maryland State Board of Education for allowing the Montgomery County School District to structure its own sex-education program ("Md. Panel OKs Sex-

Ed Program," July 5). It is refreshing to see that a state government recognizes that education is best left in the hands of the families whose students are being taught, and this program allows for parents to remove their children from the classroom if they don't like the curriculum.

> -SLOANE FROST Fairfax, Va.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1798 The U.S. Marine Corps is formallyre-established by a congressional act that also creates the U.S. Marine Band.

1804 Vice President Aaron Burr mortally wounds former Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton during a pistol duel in Weehawken, N.J.

1952 The Republican National Convention nominates Dwight D. Eisenhower for president and Richard M. Nixon for vice president.

The Medal of Freedom is awarded posthu-



Dwight Eisenhower and Richard Nixon won the GOP nomination today in 1952.

mously to Martin Luther King

1995 The United States normalizes relations with



People



This is one way to get lots of exposure.

PUBLICITY

Quadruple Media Coverage!

BUSTA RHYMES, accused of attacking two men, driving drunk and driving with a suspended license, has rejected a plea deal and is facing four separate trials. A Manhattan judge denied a motion by the prosecution Tuesday to consolidate two assault charges against Rhymes, who refused a plea deal of one year in jail for all charges. (AP)

CHARITY

U.S. Angry Gibson Won't Subsidize Our Health Care

MEL GIBSON met with the president of Costa Rica to discuss a financial donation to help the country's native Indians. "He wants to help the indigenous population and wants to know how to channel the funds,' said President Oscar Arias. Gibson told Arias he'll return next month to settle the details. (AP)



Dearly Be Stupid

TORI SPELLING is now available for weddings. "Yep, that's right. ... Reverend Tori Spelling! I did it last week online and my official certificate is in the mail. I'm so proud," she said on MySpace. Spelling officiated at a same-sex union last weekend at Chateau La Rue, the bed-and-breakfast that she and her husband, Dean McDermott, run in Fallbrook, Calif. (AP)

REJECTION

'I Am Too **Important to Gossip With** You Biddies'

Denying widespread rumors, IVANKA TRUMP has

absolutely no plans to fill Rosie O'Donnell's slot on "The View," People.com reported. "There's zero chance I would do that," she told Rvan Seacrest on his radio show Tuesday. "I'm working on the sexiest projects around the world,"

IA

Ivanka's teeth now have their own N.Y.C. area code.

she explained. "For me, to be on a television show every day ... just wouldn't work for

my schedule." Trump is vice president of real estate development and acquisitions for her father's company. She says the feud between her dad and O'Donnell was not relevant to her decision. (EXPRESS)

Nothing Kills It Quicker Than Declaring It Publicly

Just months after his longtime girlfriend KIM PORTER gave birth to twin girls, SEAN "DIDDY" COMBS announced Tuesday that the pair have split up. The move comes a few months after the two publicly proclaimed their love in Essence magazine, which detailed their turbulent history: They already had a son when Combs began his romance with Jennifer Lopez, which ended in 2001. In the December article, Porter said Combs simply fell for a "big booty and a smile," and she knew he would be back. (AP)



We award Kim Porter the Most Perfect Description of J. Lo Ever!!!!! Award.

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there's a choice,

would you

choose?

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16

CROSSWORD | WHAT'S THE SCOOP

ACROSS

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- Wells classic)
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- about aliens
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- bear
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- bird
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63 What a protractor measures 64 Gives a signal 65 Handy carryall

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- 3 Raw material for steel
- 5 Caught
- 6 "Unto the Sons"
- 7 Economics
- 8 Travelers' stop
- ingredient

- 13 Nostalgic time

- 25 Tropical malady
- 26 1492 ship
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Yesterday's Solution

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© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

SUDOKU | MEDIUM

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits I through 9. See www.sudoku.com for solution, tips and

computer program.

Need more Suldoku? Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

Yesterday's Solution

		-						
8		6		9		7	4	2
9	7	2	8	5	4	3	6	1
3	1	4	7	2	6	5	9	8
5	2	1	6	8	7	9	3	4
6	4	8	2	3	9	1	7	5
7	3	9	4	1	5	2	8	6
2	9	3	1	4	8	6	5	7
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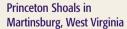


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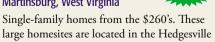


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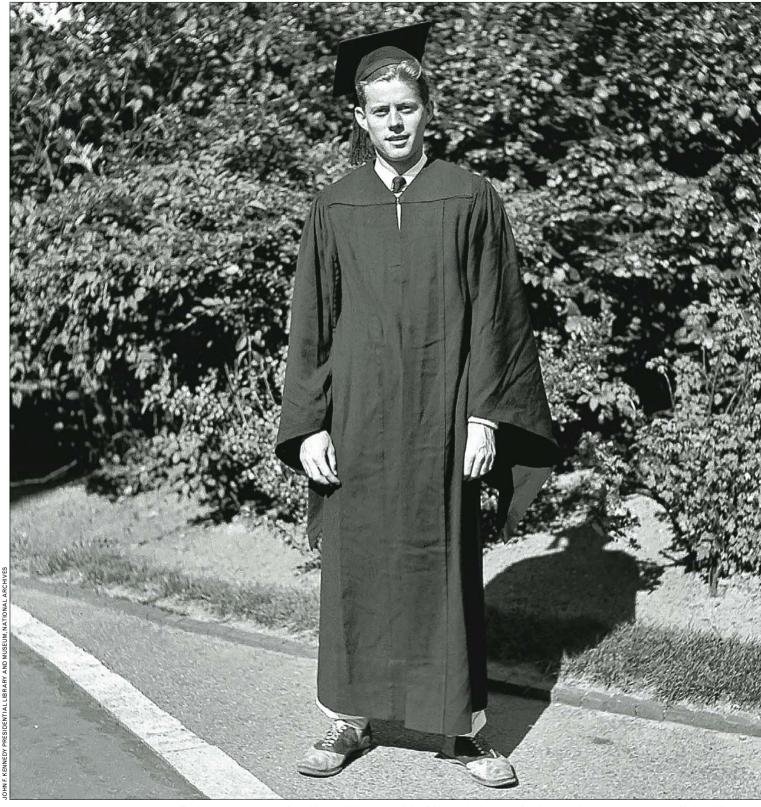
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Go to the Head of the State

An exhibit studies the school days of 12 U.S. presidents

As a kid, Herbert Hoover enjoyed reading "Ivanhoe." In high school in Grand Rapids, Mich., Gerald Ford got C's in Latin but scored far better on the football field. Jimmy Carter dreamed of attending the U.S. Naval Academy his whole life, but days after he arrived, he sent his mother a homesick letter saying, "We go into regimental formation tomorrow, when the trouble really starts."

As long as there have been U.S. presidents, the country's citizens have been fascinated with where these politicos came from and how their educational backgrounds helped them get to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Think Abraham Lincoln attending classes in a crude log cabin in Kentucky or Dubya earning C's at Yale. "School House to White House," a new exhibit at the National



SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW: For his 1940 graduation from Harvard University, John F. Kennedy donned a fresh cap and gown with rather scuffed saddle shoes.



Riddle Them This

Private investigators tackle mysteries that others can't solve **E6**



Class in a Glass

Learn how to tell pinot noir from port in wine-tasting courses | E12



Executive Class

CONTINUED FROM EI

Archives (700 Pennsylvania Ave. NW; archives.gov), delves into how 20th-century chief execs from Hoover to Clinton learned lessons in everything from comportment to calculus. Photos, documents and artifacts from presidential libraries paint a picture of the future leaders as schoolboys.

On a recent afternoon, a trio of preteen girls crowded the exhibit's opening section, which explores the presidents' grade school days. The girls giggled as they tested out old-fashioned desks displaying replicas of report cards including Harry Truman's (excellent) second-grade marks.

The exhibit tracks the 12 men from primary school through college using class photos, essays and progress reports. "I hope kids get the feeling from this that anyone could be president," says Jennifer Johnson, exhibit coordinator. "Their backgrounds show there



WHO'S ON FIRST? Dwight D. Eisenhower, second from right, top row, is shown with his 1908 high school baseball team.

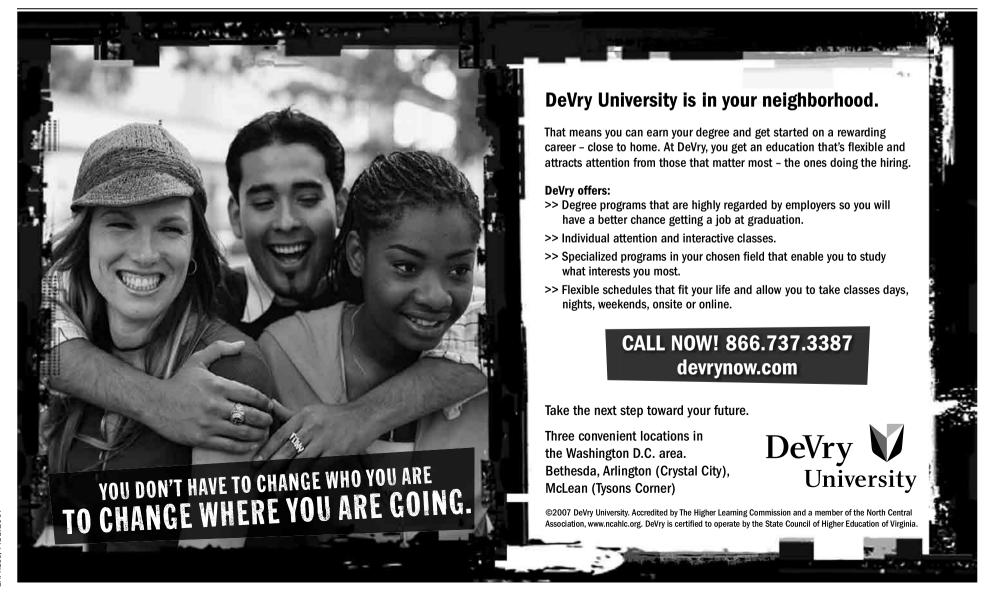
wasn't one general way to the White House."

Photos emphasize the men's divergent financial backgrounds and eras. There's hunky young Lyndon Baines Johnson in his 1924 senior class photo, bowtied and grinning among a clutch of grizzled small-town Texas kids who look like extras from "The Grapes of Wrath." Across the room, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's class photo from the exclusive Groton prep school shows straw-hatted, blazered children of the elite.

And in the exhibit's most memorable shot, a beaming John F. Kennedy Jr. is wearing his college cap and gown — and scuffed, dirty saddle shoes.

"We wanted to tell people how different each of them had it," Johnson says. "It was pretty amazing." And anyone who wants to play Spot the Future World Leader will enjoy opening up real school lockers hold

CONTINUED ON E4



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Executive Class

CONTINUED FROM E2

ing group photos ... press a button and little Franklin, Dick or Harry's mug lights up, singling him out from his classmates.

Reports cards, particularly popular with kids who drop by the National Archives, are posted throughout the show. They reveal that some future presidents did well -George H.W. Bush earned A's in reading and arithmetic in first grade! — while others dealt with academic struggles. A 1930 report card for "John Kennedy, Form II" at Connecticut's Canterbury School shows the 13-year-old Jack getting a 55 in Latin II and a 75 in Religion II. The teacher types at the end of the card: "This report is not quite as good as the last one He can do better than this."

One thing all these men had in common? "They were all really involved in things like drama or playing musical instruments,"

From drama to diving, future presidents were extracurricular fiends.

Johnson says. "Future presidents were constantly doing things." Artifacts that document their overachieving range from a photo of Jimmy Carter with the Future Farmers of America to a music stand Bill Clinton used in his high school jazz band. A weathered theater program reveals that Lyndon Johnson portrayed a prodigal son in a school production of "An Old-Fashioned Mother."

Sports, too, made a big impact on the presidents' education. "Bush, Ford and Eisenhower were serious athletes," Johnson says. "But even FDR participated. I think it might've helped them to learn to deal with failure and learn about working together. That was probably helpful in the political arena as well."

Ford, the football hero, dominates this section — his 1935 University of Michigan yearbook describes him as a top-notch sportsman who "never drinks,



THEN, THEY CALLED HIM THE FLIPPER: Ronald Reagan, a member of the Eureka College swim team, prepares to jump in.

smokes, swears or tells dirty stories." There's also a charmingly gawky picture of Jimmy Carter on his high school basketball team.

Overall, "School House to White House" does much to humanize these men who ended up being leaders of the free world. Gaze at a photo of a young George H.W. Bush in a Yale sweater awkwardly holding his infant son George W. Bush, or see Jimmy Carter's sweet grade school book of word problems, and somehow finishing college and winning the electoral college don't seem that far apart. "These things help people relate to them on a personal level," Johnson says. "Many of us had school experiences like theirs." JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

PRESIDENTIAL TRIVIA >> THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW

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Neatness, -		9.68	
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Average Mar	RK FOR THE MONTH,	7.79	

Scholars in Chief, in Brief

Whether they were smart cookies or wisecrackers, the presidents and their academic lives could never be wholly reflected on a report card. We did our homework and found some presidential schoolyard trivia that's top-of-the-class.

- → Though he once refused an honorary degree from Oxford claiming "no literary nor scientific attainment," Millard Fillmore still probably got an A from his teacher Abigail Powers when he married her in 1826.
- → Franklin Pierce may not have been seen as "most likely to succeed." He once ranked at the bottom of his class at Bowdoin College, which he attended with Nathaniel Hawthorne and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.
- → Andrew Johnson had no formal schooling but was taught to read and write by his wife, Eliza McCardle, when he was 17.
- → Rutherford B. Hayes' first experience with close contests was not his controversial election in 1876 but the spelling bees he often won as a child.
- → As a presidential parlor trick, James Garfield used to simultaneously write Greek with one hand and Latin with the other.
- → Though he dropped his first name in politics, Thomas Woodrow Wilson was not above a little tomfoolery. In 1873, he was fined 20 cents by Davidson College for "improper conduct" in the Eumenean Society hall.
- → At Whittier College, Richard Nixon founded a fraternity called the Orthogonian Society and was elected class president when he campaigned on a platform of allowing dancing on campus at the Quaker school.
- → Before entering politics, Lyndon Baines Johnson taught elementary school, high school and college in Texas.
- → Bill Clinton was the first president to have been a Rhodes Scholar. He attended Oxford from 1968 to 1970, though he did not get a degree from there.
- → George W. Bush was the head cheerleader at the all-boys' Phillips Academy preparatory school in Andover, Mass.
- → Nine presidents, including George Washington, Andrew Jackson and Harry S Truman, never attended college. Eleven presidents went to either Harvard or Yale, including John Adams, both Roosevelts, John F. Kennedy, Gerald Ford, Bill Clinton and both Bushes.

 JEN BEASLEY (EXPRESS)



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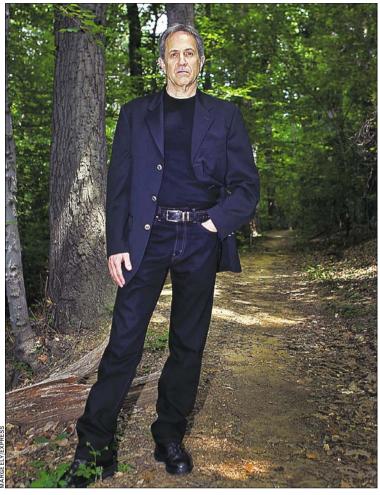
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GettingAhead



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A sleuth for the past three decades, the 49-year-old says, "The number of perverts is increasing. They buy covert hidden cameras and no one knows they are being watched. The openings of these cameras are the size of a period at the end of a sentence."

There are approximately 60,000 private investigators in the U.S. Mesis says, "Women are the fastest-growing group in the business," thanks to increasing and wide-ranging opportunities for work and the

ability to earn a substantial salary. With more law enforcement resources being allocated to areas like terrorism and homeland security, there's a growing need for P.I.s to do background checks and other jobs as contractors.

Detectives conduct criminal and civil investigations involving fraud, insurance, homicide, domestic family matters, and child custody and identity theft. They also do surveil-



of perverts is increasing. They buy hidden cameras and no one knows they're being watched."

JIMMIE MESIS, MAGAZINE EDITOR

lance operations, locate witnesses and missing persons, and serve official court documents. Between the federal government, private sector and self-employment, P.I.s find many potential employers in the D.C. region.

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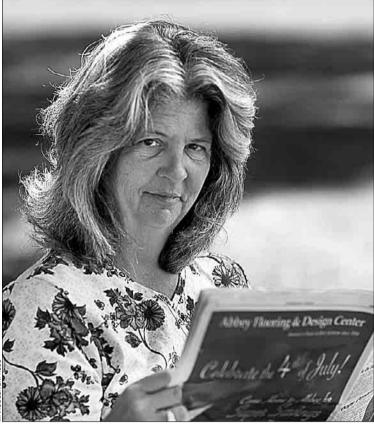
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GettingAhead



Private investigator Shirley Moore is one of a growing number of female sleuths.

Super Sleuths CONTINUED FROM E9

region, employer and specialty. Mesis says, "Most licensed private investigators earn an [annual] salary of \$45,000 to \$75,000. However, there are many who earn \$150,000 per year or more and, obviously, those with less motivation that might break \$28,000." Mesis says it's realistic to expect to earn about \$35,000 to \$45,000 annually.

Warren Sonne, 58, a retired New York City police detective and founder and past president of the United States Association of Professional Investigators based in Washington, D.C, is a private investigator. He says good snoops have several traits in common.

"Investigators require an organized mind and need to keep things in perspective and be able to adjust theories. A competent investigator needs to have an inquiring mind and follow the facts," he says.

Newbies may struggle at first.

"The problem with new investigators is they try to make facts fit theories," says Sonne, who hires investigators for his two New Yorkand Florida-based investigative businesses. He adds, "Investigators must be discreet, have some modicum of integrity and guard against letting their own emotions about people influence where the case goes."

Howard Miller, 60, teaches the Private Security Services Training Course — approved by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services — at the Northern Virginia Security Academy in Falls Church, Va. An investigator for 35 years, Miller says it is important to develop expertise in an industry. Then, he says, "One can learn $\,$ investigative techniques."

The president of Miller Consulting Group in Falls Church, he describes the personality necessary to do undercover work: "A strong constitution, willing to work and do a job [that's] not so glamorous, good health, education, self-discipline, a willingness to do unusual and risky things, and self confidence."

Above all, Sherlock Holmes wannabes have to be willing to wait around for things to happen.

'The road to success may be long," says Miller. "It tests your patience, and there is a sacrifice made on one's personal life. One may not get immediate gratification of glory and excitement."

And don't apply in a big metropolitan area if you're directionally challenged. Because an investigator has to travel to various locations

Investigations: Give It a Whorl

So, you think you want to be a snoop? Here's the scoop on what it takes in the D.C. metro area.

→ D.C.: There's no education requirement, but you have to be at least 18 years old. You'll have to be licensed, though, and that means you can't have any arrest record. You'll also need to provide your addresses for the past 10 years and fork over a \$5,000 surety bond. Be prepared to be fingerprinted. D.C. Metropolitan Police Department: 202-671-0500; mpdc.dc.gov.

→ VA.: Private investigators must be at least 18 years old, be U. S. citizens or legal alien residents and successfully complete a 60-hour entrylevel private investigator course at a facility approved by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice



Services. Individuals are registered (not licensed) for two years, and eight hours of in-service training must be completed within a year preceding the expiration date to maintain registration status. Department of Criminal Justice Services: 804-786-4000; dcjs.virginia.gov.

→ MD.: P.I.s must be licensed through the Maryland State Police and undergo background checks. Those without prior law enforcement experience must apprentice under a licensed private investigator for five years. Maryland State Police: 410-799-0191; mdsp.org. K.L.B.

and often get there quickly, Miller stresses, "Be a good land navigator and be able to read maps." A good investigator will not just rely on MapQuest.

You're also not cut out for this career if you're a nine-to-fiver. Shirley Moore, 52, owns Potomac Investigations in Chantilly. She teaches wannabe sleuths at Central Academy there. She explains detectives must be ready to do things "at the drop of a hat." Moore works 60 to 80 hours per week and acknowledges that, for some people, that sort of schedule can take a toll.

"The hours can be long and unpredictable," she says. "You have to work when the work needs to be done. Holidays, evenings and weekends tend to disappear. It is a difficult profession to juggle with other commitments."

Moore joined the field after spending 21 years in the banking industry.

"I had always been interested in true crime stories and have a naturally curious, nosey nature," she says. "I met a customer at the bank who was a private investigator and ran a training school and, after talking with him for several months, decided to give it a try."

Moore now employs three investigators at her agency, which conducts investigations in both civil and criminal cases.

"It is fun and exciting," she says.
"Criminal [cases are] my favorite.
Every day is different."

"In all cases, your goal, typically, is to get people to talk to you," says Brad Garrett, 58, a retired FBI special agent who's worked several high-profile cases. "The real bottom line is communication."

Garrett was the lead FBI agent in the disappearance and homicide investigation of Capitol Hill intern Chandra Levy. Though Rock Creek Park has been combed by police innumerable times since her remains were found, Garrett continues to revisit the area, sifting for any clues or new leads that might solve her case.

He also played a key role in the 2002 D.C. sniper case, at one point interviewing Lee Boyd Malvo and obtaining a confession regarding Malvo's and John Lee Mohammad's participation in the sniper shootings.

"P.I. work has many similarities to law enforcement investigative work," he says. "You are identifying people, locating them and, hopefully, interviewing them."

Garrett claims the most rewarding aspect of his work is figuring out and corroborating what really happened, despite a lack of clues or other crucial evidence. "My job is to find the truth. I'm always looking for the bottom line."

Kevin Hooks, director of

Investigations for INTERPROBE in Fairfax, Va., has worked in the field since 1986. He currently deals with everything from insurance fraud cases and corporate surveillance to tracking down people who have disappeared. He says if you like Rubik's Cube, consider this career.

"One must have an above-average degree of common sense, must be a good observer, have street smarts, have good academic skills, be a bit nosey and have an interest in solving puzzles," says Hooks.

Both Garrett and Hooks acknowledge the boundaries between law enforcement officers and private investigators. They recognize that law enforcement officers have easier access to information because they possess a badge and have subpoena powers.

"I have to obtain records through public sources and interviews," says Garrett.

Hooks adds, "Police have a badge. A P.I. has to find other ways to get information."

Hooks says those who are cut out to be a sleuth will find it rewarding, despite the sacrifices.

"The job can be very lucrative if you are diligent about it and good at it," he says.

"If your heart is in it, you'll know it after three months. It's a job you would never get bored with — ever."





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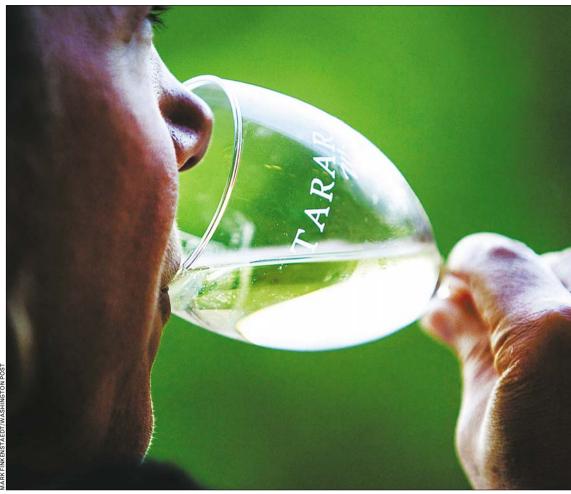
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GettingAhead



SIP, SWIRL, REPEAT: At a wine tasting hosted by D.C. expert Mark Phillips, Shannon Brennan trys out a Virginia vintage.

Grape Education

Wine classes take the mystery out of tannins, legs and other glass issues

So, are you picking up on the undertones of tar and hoisin sauce in that 2003 Alain Jaume Châteauneufdu-Pape Domaine Grand Veneur Les Origines yet?

Really? You are? Well, that's just fantastic. We're all very proud of you. Now, if you don't mind, Smarty McSmarts, we think it'd be best if you packed up your stemware and your spittoon and joined the other fancy-pants wine elitists in a dark room somewhere, so you can all sit around one-upping each other with inane adjectives and pretentious fake accents.

Wine is on the rise throughout the United States and, according to a Gallup poll released last summer, is poised to eclipse beer as the beverage of choice among Americans who imbibe.

The wine scene in the Washington area is vast and varied. It'd be almost impossible to give an exhaustive account of all the wine-related events happening regularly around the Beltway. What we can do is offer snapshots of the types of activities and excursions that are tempting palates at all levels of sophistication. The goal for each is the same: good times.

Ladies' Night

Let's be honest: Most book clubs are simply a front for wine-inspired gossip fests. It might be time to ditch the books.

"We're usually here with a rowdier crowd that doesn't listen at all. This is a quiet night," Lynn Dillon, 52, said almost apologetically as her trio pealed into laughter over the last of their Rieslings at a recent meeting of the Women's Wine Tasting Club in McLean. "This is ladies' night out. It's just fun."

But even at ladies' night, there is lots to learn. As dim sum is served and seven wine samples are poured, the evening's special guest discusses the impact of German wine laws and the lineage of the country's great vineyards.

It's kind of a tough crowd for that type of talk. But no matter. The group's leader, Cecile Giannangeli, who owns wine shops in McLean and Gaithersburg, knows how to keep her congregation laughing.

"When you have a glass of wine and a taste of food, one should make you want to go back to the other," she said, quickly putting alternate hands to her mouth. "Thus, overeating and overdrinking."

The club's monthly meetings attract women on their own, as well as in pairs and groups. By the end of the evening, it doesn't make

much difference anyway — they all wind up mingling and chatting and promising they'll see one another at the next session.

For info, see finewine.com. Fees range from \$40 to \$65 per session.

House Calls

Manny and Stephanie Holguin are nothing if not inspired hosts. The Leesburg couple's soirees — legendary in the neighborhood have included sushi parties, salsa dancing fetes and chili cook-offs.

But the wine bash they threw well, let's just say everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. The Holguins hired a professional wine guy, Mark Phillips, to select the vintages and give his "Wine 101" talk as guests sipped blissfully in the backyard twilight.

Phillips was hired after Manny Holguin, 50, happened upon his public television show ("Enjoying Wine With Mark Phillips") the previous month and was taken with the wine expert's decidedly egalitarian approach.

"I think I'm like a heck of a lot of people in that I really enjoy drinking wine, but more often than not, I'm hit or miss," Manny Holguin said. "He really demystifies things."

Over a New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc and a fizzy Moscato d'Asti that he brought to the party, Phillips chatted breezily about the basics of wine — where to buy it, how to speak the lingo and which ones match best with which foods.

Ninety minutes into the talk a chill set in and Phillips began to wrap up, but guests lingered on, with more questions and stories and requests for refills. Finally, the goose bumps got to be too much, but the Holguins' revelers weren't ready for the festivities to end there was, after all, more wine to be drunk inside.

"Steph got calls from people several days after, about how wonderful it was and they were going to try this wine or that wine," Manny Holguin said. "I think everyone was absolutely thrilled ... it was the talk of the neighborhood."

Wine parties don't require a professional, but there are several who are willing to make house calls. Mark Phillips, director of the Wine Tasting Association, can be reached at 703-799-1221. Laurie Forster, a self-proclaimed "wine coach," also gives wine talks at private parties. (410-820-4212 or lau rie@thewinecoach.com.)

Off-Line, on the Vine

Everyone knew that Doug Klapec worked in forensics, that Bill Delaney was fiercely patriotic. They knew who was partial to Bordeauxs and who preferred Barolos.

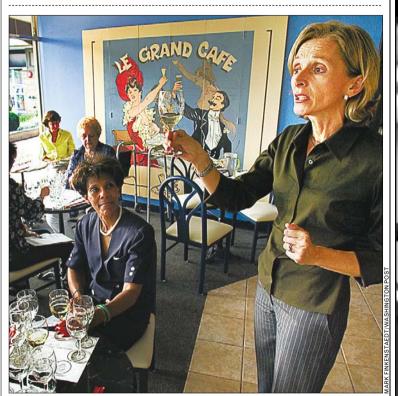
They didn't know that their organizer, the one with an encyclopedic knowledge of Italian wines, would turn out to be a 25-year-old, only in town for a summer internship. And no one guessed that the man they knew as Rajiv was a blond white guy.

Cyberspace, it turns out, has its

the host. A theme — usually a year or a style or a region — is chosen in advance. Everybody brings a bottle to share, and a taste of each wine is offered to the restaurant's owner.

Awkward pauses and pre-dinner jitters are tough to avoid — it is, after all, basically a big blind date with extra libations. The Cleveland Park offline, for instance, was the culmination of almost two years of near-daily Internet exchanges.

But over gorgonzola appetizers, wild boar entrees and glass after glass of meticulously chosen



Cecile Giannangeli raises her glass at a Women's Wine Tasting event in McLean.



a glass of wine and a taste of food, one should make you want to go back to the other."

CECILE GIANNANGELI. WINE EXPERT

limits — not the least of which is the inability to capture the teeming bouquet of a '99 Brunello.

For years, the Internet has been the anointed medium for sophisticated oenophiles to debate the merits of their favorite varietals. But increasingly, regular members of online wine communities are moving their conversations to less, uh, pixilated settings.

The rules: One person acts as

Italian varietals, the seven, ranging in age from 25 to 41, roll their chatter from choppy pleasantries to dreamy-eyed stories of their first great bottle, before finally, sheepishly, revealing the secrets of their online monikers.

Rajiv, it turns out, just seemed like a cool name at the time.

Off-lines often spring from popular Internet bulletin boards. A good listing of local events can be found at localwineevents.com/Washington-DC-Wine.

Vineyard Visits

Landon Maddox knows what his public wants. The limo is always freshly polished and fully stocked with champagne and snacks when he arrives to whisk people into wine country.

Not that Nanci Myers and crew

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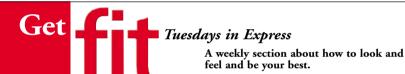


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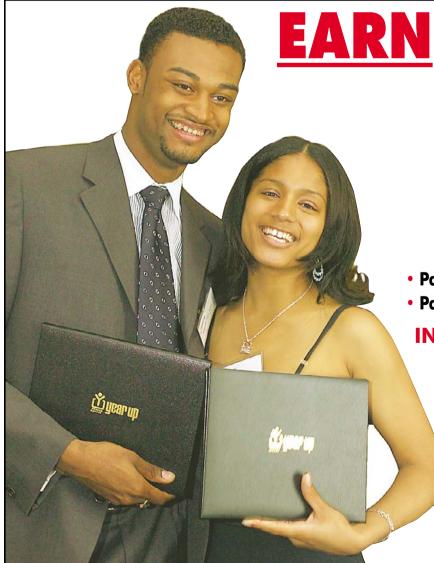
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Wine Tastings CONTINUED FROM EIS

needed extra provisions. The fivewoman gaggle, friends for more than 20 years, had stocked up on muffins, chicken salad sandwiches and homemade sangria before the 50-minute ride to Pearmund Cellars, the first in a three-stop tour of Virginia's wineries.

The official occasion was Myers's 50th birthday, but that was just an excuse — an excuse to gather, to drink, to demand the queenly service they deserved.

Standing among the vines, swirling glasses of a 2004 Viognier, our mid-Atlantic Ya-Yas requested that their guide — vineyard owner Chris Pearmund - give a thorough explanation of the wine-making process, but do it "in the briefest possible way."

The women, who met two



At Pearmund Cellars vineyard, Chris Pearmund, second from right, points out details about one of the many wines he makes.

decades ago when they all worked for a local government contractor, chose an excursion with Virginia Wine Country Tours, a group that often coordinates special meetings with vineyard officials and provides drivers who have some knowledge of the state's wine industry.

After sampling the selection and picking up a few bottles at Pearmund, it was back into the limo and over to Oasis Winery in Hume, where Myers and friends were greeted with a glass of champagne and asked to roll up their pant legs. Turns out this stop included a little "I Love Lucy"-style grape stomping before the tour and tasting.

At Oasis, there was much lingering over brie and Cabernet Sauvignon, and even Penny "I'm a beer girl" Price seemed to be having a fine time.

There was still one more stop. The merry band descended into the Rappahannock Cellars' bowels for a lesson on fermentation and then back up into the tasting room, where smiles emerged as the corks were pulled. Biggest hit — a potent dessert wine named Solera.

The journey was supposed to end at 5 p.m., but it was nearly 8 p.m. by the time Myers and her friends poured back into the limo, its trunk nearly full from treasures found along the way.

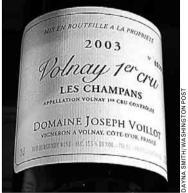
For information: 540-622-2505; virginia wine country tours. com.Accommodates groups of two to 48 in its limos and buses. \$270 to \$900-plus. ELLEN MCCARTHY (THE WASHINGTON POST)

CLASS ACTS: WHERE TO SIP & SWILL

Corkscrew Courses

Whether you're already an oenophile or just a wino wannabe, there are many events that let you sip, swirl and swig in coming weeks. For other ideas, see localwineevents.com.

- → PINK IS THE NEW WHITE, at least in summer. Try 8 rosés not to be confused with sickly sweet white zinfandel — from Greece, France and the U.S., plus dishes that go with them. July 18, 7-9 p.m. \$59 a person, Whittemore House, 1526 New Hampshire Ave. NW: reservations at 301-841-7609; giramondowine.com
- → IS THERE A WRONG WAY to order chardonnay at a restaurant? What's the difference between cabernet franc and cabarnet sauvignon? Get the answers to these and other questions at Wine Basics 101, a sort of vino-for-dummies course



frequently offered by TasteDC. July 19, 7:30-9:15 p.m. \$55 per person. Westin Washington, D.C,. City Center, 1400 M St. NW: Information and reservations: 202-244-3700; tastedc.com.

→ LEARN TO TELL whether a vintage hails from from the Old World or the New at a class featuring a fourcourse dinner paired with eight vintages from different regions, Aug. 8, 7 p.m., \$70 per person. Sette Bello, 3101 Wilson Blvd., Arlington. Information: 703-741-0404. LYNN THORNE



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